

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Brigitte Bardot has written a letter to South African President Nelson Mandela, pleading for the release of the 100 rhinos and 100 elephants that are being held in a South African reserve. The actress, who is a dedicated animal welfare advocate, said she was "shocked" to learn that the animals were being held in a reserve. She said she was "pleased" to hear that the animals were being held in a reserve. She said she was "pleased" to hear that the animals were being held in a reserve.

Tourists barred from Chinese monkey island
KONG (AP) — A group of tourists was barred from a small island in the South China Sea because of a fear of a deadly disease. The island is home to a large number of monkeys, and the tourists were afraid that they might be infected with a disease. The tourists were barred from the island because of a fear of a deadly disease.

Charlie Chaplin's son plans cultural centre in Soweto
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Charlie Chaplin's son, Christopher Chaplin, is planning to build a cultural centre in Soweto, South Africa. The centre is intended to be a place where people can learn about Charlie Chaplin's life and work. The centre is intended to be a place where people can learn about Charlie Chaplin's life and work.

£1 million dollar car stolen at gas station
INGHAM, England (AP) — A Renault luxury car worth £1 million was stolen from a gas station in Ingham, England. The car was stolen from a gas station in Ingham, England. The car was stolen from a gas station in Ingham, England.

Full ties with Israel for full peace — Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — The forging of Gulf Arab ties with Israel must be preceded by accords for full peace between the Jewish state and Syria and Lebanon, Bahrain's foreign minister was quoted on Saturday as saying. Sheikh Muhammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa said the London-based Al Hayat daily that moves were developing towards normalisation of ties but "the issue of Syria and Lebanon is very important for us (Gulf Arab states)." "We cannot go along with it (ties) without progress being achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese front," said the minister whose country is the current head of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Sheikh Muhammad said: "Normalisation of ties would only be full after full peace." Oman last week forged official trade ties with Israel — the first GCC state to do so. The GCC also groups Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

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Palestinian women prisoners demand release of all or none

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Twenty-three Palestinian women refused to be released on Saturday unless Israel freed all female prisoners as it agreed to under the Palestinian autonomy accord.

The women, being held at Tel Mond prison near Tel Aviv, are due to be released over the next few days with 1,100 men under the terms of the accord expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. They accused Israel of flagrantly violating the agreement, signed in Washington on Sept. 28, in a statement published by the Palestinian Prisoners' Association in Bethlehem. The women's protest came as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat prepared to meet later Saturday in an attempt to defuse a growing crisis over Israel's refusal to release Palestinian women jailed for murder.

The two men were to hold talks at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, officials said, for what had been intended to be routine talks on implementing their accord on extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. However, PLO officials said Israel's refusal to release at least four women, in violation of their Sept. 28 agree-

ment, had provoked a crisis of confidence.

Mr. Peres told Israeli radio on Saturday: "I hope that this decision will not have any effect on the implementation of the accord."

"We have explained to the Palestinians that the government had proposed the liberation of all women prisoners but it cannot force the hand of President Weizman," he said.

"The meeting with Arafat is above all about setting the timetable for redeployment and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians. There are many details still to settle," he added.

The autonomy deal calls for the Israeli army to withdraw from six West Bank towns and for the deployment in stages of 12,000 Palestinian police, allowing for self-rule elections next year.

The head of the Israeli military administration in the West Bank, General Oren Shahor, told Israeli radio on Saturday that the army was "ready to hand over administrative buildings to the Palestinians within a very short time."

He confirmed that four offices would be transferred to the Palestinians in the next few days and a further eight would soon follow.

In their statement, the women at Tel Mond said 37 Palestinian women, including

Arafat, Peres begin talks

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres began talks on Saturday evening on implementing an accord signed in Washington last week to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. PLO officials said Mr. Arafat would demand that Israel free all 27 Palestinian women prisoners it is holding as stated in the accord.

seven held for questioning, were currently behind bars. Israeli and PLO officials have put the number at 27 or 28. A Palestinian group identified five women jailed for murder.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman and military authorities on Friday refused to authorise the release of prisoners with Israeli "blood on their hands." Their decision came on the same day that parliament approved the West Bank deal by 61 votes to 59.

Under a barrage of Palestinian criticism, a meeting between Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat was arranged to try to defuse the row.

Mr. Arafat insisted on all 28 women being freed, an

issue which almost derailed the tough negotiations in the Egyptian resort of Taba last month that led to the West Bank deal.

"To keep even a single woman prisoner in jail is in violation of the accord and shakes the confidence of the Palestinians," said Hisham Abdul Razzak, a Palestinian official in charge of the detainees' file.

The West Bank accord states that "all female detainees and prisoners shall be released in the first stage of release."

One official said the prisoners conveyed a message to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) meeting in Gaza before the talks scheduled between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres.

"They will not accept freedom unless all are freed," said Sufyan Abu Zaydeh, a PLO negotiator on behalf of the prisoners.

PNA negotiator Saeb Erekat said the prisoner issue would top the agenda in the talks.

PNA member Mohammad Zuhdi Al Nashashibi said the PLO backed the prisoners' position.

Dr. Erekat said: "It was agreed that the redeployment will start 10 days after the signing and end by the end of December 1995 from the areas of the West Bank and from Hebron in March."



REGENT REVIEWS SUMMIT ISSUES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday called at the Prime Ministry and met with acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Deputy Prime Minister Khaled Karaki. The ministers briefed the Regent on issues related to development and modernisation of public services and economic and social issues. Later, the Regent chaired a meeting (photo above) attended by the ministers of finance, industry and trade and planning that reviewed preparations for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit scheduled to be held here this month. The Regent discussed at the meeting issues that came up during a similar conference held in Casablanca last year (Petra photo)

Al Hussein camp residents not to be evicted, Tal says

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government will not evict the tens of thousands of residents of the Al Hussein refugee camp despite a recent Court of Cassation ruling that the land where they have set up homes be returned to their original owners. Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal said Saturday.

The formula the government has in mind involves either buying or leasing the land from the owners, who allowed the use of their land to build the camp to accommodate the wave of Palestinians who lost their homes in the 1948 war, Mr. Tal said.

"There was no need for concern," said Mr. Tal, referring to an uproar in the local press after the court ruling. "We will not evict thousands of people and render them homeless," he told the Jordan Times. "The government will either buy the property or lease it from its owners" to prevent the eviction of the residents of the camp.

A decision to this effect will be announced "in the next few days," said the minister.

Mr. Tal's statements were met with relief by some deputies who had raised questions about the government's stand over the issue.

"I feel comfortable about the justice minister's statements," said Islamist Deputy Deeb Abdullah, who had sent a letter to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker asking him to help the resi-



Hisham Al Tal

dents of the camp and prevent their eviction.

"The government tried to keep the matter a secret," he charged, adding that "it (the government) might have forgotten to mention it or deliberately refrained from doing so."

According to the deputy, the government in 1948 rented for 99 years part of the property on which the camp was set up. The rent of another part (55 dunums) was being renewed for five years until 1970, when the government stopped paying it.

The matter reignited the controversy over the fate of the millions of Palestinian refugees, one of the thorniest issues in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

While Arabs demand that Israel grant refugees the right of return or compensation in accordance to international law, Israel has restrictions on

the definition of "displaced and refugees" as well as their number.

The displaced are those who fled their homes in the occupied territories during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, while the refugees are those who were forced to leave in 1948.

The last round of negotiations over the issue which took place here last month failed to bridge the gap between Arabs and Israelis.

Under the September 1993 declaration of principles (DOP) deal between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, the two sides will discuss the issue in the last stages of their peace negotiations in 1996.

Some deputies are sceptical that safeguarding the refugee camps here is aimed at "settling Palestinian refugees and moulding them into the society," thus preempting the possibility of denying them their right of return. Others say that it is a judicial rather than a political decision.

"Whether the government decides to acquire the ownership of the land and pass it over to those living on it, or whether it carries out the court's ruling, it will be (in both cases) settling the refugees," Islamist Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber was quoted as saying by Al Hadath weekly last week.

"What is happening in Al Hussein camp is a judicial decision and has nothing to do with settling... Palestinians can only be settled in Palestine..." said Dr. Abdullah.

Settlers clash with Hebron residents

HEBRON (Agencies) — Jewish settlers and Palestinian pupils scuffled outside a girls' school in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday, Palestinian witnesses said.

They said Israeli police intervened and detained a Palestinian youth throwing stones but no one was hurt. Earlier, police detained the principal and two security guards at the Gordoba Girls' School for about two hours. Palestinian sources said police insisted that the principal sign a pledge not to raise the Palestinian flag above the school but she refused.

About 50 settlers broke into the school on Tuesday in anger at the raising of a Palestinian flag.

Settlers want Palestinians to refrain from flying the flag over the school opposite a settler stronghold in Hebron, for which special security arrangements have been agreed in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord for self-rule in the West Bank signed last month.

The accord angered Hebron's 120,000 Palestinians and 400 settlers. Palestinians want the settlers to leave the city, while settlers want Hebron to remain under Israeli control.

The Israeli army said meanwhile it would extend closures it clamped on the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank until Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's adviser on "terrorism" warned Israelis earlier this week to be on guard against expected suicide bombings by militants opposed to the Israel-PLO accord.

The army sealed off the Gaza Strip on Sept. 20 and closed Israel's borders with the West Bank a week later. It had said both areas would be reopened on Oct. 8 but a military statement said on Saturday both regions would remain sealed off for security reasons until Oct. 10 at 0200 GMT.

An Israeli court ordered the mother of Yahya Ayyash, the suspected mastermind behind several militant anti-Israeli bomb attacks, to be detained for questioning for a further six days, legal sources said Saturday.

Aysheh Ayyash, 55, who has been held at the central prison in Jerusalem since Sept. 20, is suspected of passing messages between jailed members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and activists outside, her lawyer said.

Her detention was extended at a hearing on Friday.

Libya may reverse its expulsions, Musa hints

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt raised hopes on Saturday that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would back off his campaign to expel the 30,000 Palestinians living in his country.

"We expect positive developments to occur soon," Foreign Minister Amr Musa said a day after meeting Colonel Qadhafi for "extended talks" near the Egyptian-Libyan border.

"Qadhafi's understanding was clear," Mr. Musa told the press.

Mr. Musa's comments came as Palestinians closed off the road between Egypt and Libya to protest their plight after Tripoli expelled them and they were refused entry by Cairo, leaving them trapped in no man's land

between the two nations.

Around 900 Palestinians have been stranded in the zone, living in a tent camp set up by Libya.

An Arab diplomatic source suggested that Mr. Musa had succeeded in persuading Col. Qadhafi to drop the campaign and let the stranded Palestinians return to Libya.

Libya will need time to withdraw from its position but it will find a way," said the source, who asked not to be named. "Maybe by the end of this week we will have solved the problem."

Col. Qadhafi began the campaign in a bid to show the "failure" of Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accords, insisting that if they had truly created a Palestinian hume-

land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, then Palestinians should be able to return there.

Mr. Musa explained to Col. Qadhafi the Egyptian position that Arab states should hold off making unilateral moves on the Palestinians to give the peace process with Israel more time," the source said.

The PLO and Israel are to tackle the problem of Palestinian refugees early next year when they start final status talks on autonomy. Tripoli has opposed the peace process with Israel.

Mr. Musa also "reminded Qadhafi what Egypt has done in the Lockerbie affair," the source said.

(Continued on page 7)

Bosnia truce may be delayed

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegovic said he did not believe that a countrywide ceasefire for Bosnia would begin first thing Tuesday as originally slated.

He told reporters that the truce, conditional on restoring gas and electricity supplies to Sarajevo, would not begin as planned "because the conditions have not been fulfilled."

Mr. Izetbegovic was speaking in Fuzina, 40 kilometres west of Sarajevo, where he held talks with other Bosnian government officials and with the U.N. commander for southwest Bosnia, Brigadier Andrew Fringle.

Earlier a Bosnian Foreign Ministry official said the start of the 60-day ceasefire would be delayed by two days because of problems with restarting gas and electrical supplies to the city.

The U.N.-brokered ceasefire, announced Thursday, was due to come into effect from midnight Monday local time.

It is intended to serve as a prelude to proximity talks among Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian leaders in the United States leading to a fully-fledged peace conference to be held in Paris.

Belgrade newspapers seen as the voice of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic forecast on Saturday that the ceasefire in Bosnia would bring an end to its 3½ year war.

"Peace has begun to move like an avalanche and will be difficult to stop in the weeks to come," the daily Borba wrote in a commentary. "It is time to lay down arms and sit at the negotiations table for as long as is necessary."

Politika, rump Yugoslavia's biggest selling newspaper, said the ceasefire deal endorsed by Mr. Milosevic "indicates... the end of the civil war in Bosnia."

Mr. Milosevic is negotiating on behalf of Bosnian Serbs who held out for more than a year against a big

Syria says it is seeking with U.S. 'new form' for peace negotiations with Israel

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Syria and the United States were seeking to find a new form of negotiations for the Syria-Israel track of the Middle East peace process, the Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported.

SANA said Mr. Sharaa, speaking to Arab reporters late on Friday in Washington, expressed satisfaction with his talks with U.S. peace negotiator Dennis Ross and Secretary of State Warren Christopher (see page 12).

"Now we are seeking to find a new form to resume the negotiations on the Syrian track..." Mr. Sharaa said, adding that the aim would be to avoid deadlock and time-wasting.

U.S. officials said meetings between Mr. Sharaa, Mr. Christopher and Mr. Ross resulted in no progress on the

Syria-Israel track and peace talks remained deadlocked over Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, and security arrangements.

"I could say I am satisfied with talks with U.S. officials because they were based on mutual keenness to push the peace process to reach results and not only hold negotiations for the sake of negotiating..." Mr. Sharaa said.

Syria accuses Israel of wasting time in negotiations, while Israel says Syria reneged on agreements to resume peace talks at a low military level.

U.S. officials had hoped the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord signed on Sept. 28 would clear the way for all parties to refocus efforts on the Israeli-Syrian peace track after three months of no visible progress.

There were "no specific breakthroughs," said State

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns in Washington.

Mr. Sharaa and Mr. Ross failed to agree on a resumption of contracts between Syrian and Israeli military officials. A Washington meeting in June between the two countries' top military brass was cut short.

Israel wants its army to be able to keep an alert station on the Golan Heights with an eye towards a possible pull-out from the strategic plateau it has occupied since 1967. Syria insists that the surveillance be done by satellite.

"It is the central question in the negotiation," Mr. Burns said. "This is something Israel and Syria will have to resolve themselves."

The U.S. spokesman said the Ross-Sharaa meeting did provide the opportunity to show Damascus "we are determined to work with Israel

and Syria to bridge the gap over the next several weeks."

Referring to the Mideast peace process negotiating table, he added: "Here are two empty chairs, Syria and Lebanon; we hope they'll be filled."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin blamed to deadlock in peace talks on Syria's inflexibility.

"I have no impressions or information that encourage developing talks with Syria," Mr. Rabin told Israel TV.

Mr. Rabin's comments came after Syrian chief of staff blamed the stalemate on Israeli security demands.

Mr. Rabin said that Syrian demands and Syria's refusal to hold direct talks with Israel hindered progress.

"We need talks as we had with the Jordanians, the Palestinians and the Egyptians. The ball is in the Syrian court," Mr. Rabin said.

Afghanistan is in ruins, U.N. envoy reports after tour to assess situation

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan's two largest cities are a landscape of rubble and ruin, reminiscent of post-World War II Europe, a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

"The devastation in many parts of Kabul and Kandahar is just enormous... one is reminded of images of World War II Europe when you see entire neighbourhoods reduced to rubble," Peter Hansen, United Nations undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told a news conference in the Pakistani capital.

Mr. Hansen spent the last four days touring Afghanistan's war-shattered capital of Kabul, southern Kandahar city and the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The ancestral home of Afghanistan's royal family, Kandahar was once a sprawling city of ornate palaces and adobe mud homes. But 10 years of Soviet occupation and several more years of civil war reduced entire suburbs to mounds of dirt.

Kabul, a bustling city of nearly two million people before insurgents threw out the communists from power in 1992, has been devastated by relentless factional fighting that followed.

The internecine fighting has left at least 25,000 people dead — mostly civilians — and sent another 75,000 people fleeing to eastern Jalalabad.

In Jalalabad, about 125 kilometres from Kabul, the destruction is outside the city where hundreds of thousands of refugees have turned vast tracts of forests into barren plains.

"In Jalalabad all the trees have been cut, all the bushes removed. It is an environmental disaster," said Mr. Hansen.

However, he said he saw hope emerge from the destruction.

In some areas children had returned to school, albeit badly damaged schools without desks, books or paper, he said. Some classes were held outside and students sat on plastic sheets.

Farmers had returned to their fields despite an estimated 10 million land mines that litter the countryside, he said.

Mr. Hansen said his four-day tour has given him ammunition he will use next Tuesday in Geneva when he launches an appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

Last year the U.N. tried to raise \$106 million to aid Afghanistan but received only \$80 million.

Mr. Hansen refused to say how much the U.N. will be seeking next year but said it will be at least 10 to 15 per cent higher.

He said Afghanistan is among the poorest countries in the world, with one of the highest rates of both infant mortality and malnutrition.

It is also the most heavily mined country in the world, he said.

Aid workers in Kabul say at least five people are injured by land mines each day.

Mr. Hansen said the U.N. humanitarian aid goes toward detecting land mines, improving the supply of clean water, health care and education.



ARREST IN HEBRON: Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian boy suspected of throwing stones during a confrontation on Saturday with Jewish settlers who stormed a girls school in the occupied West Bank town (see page one) (AFP photo)

Ramos envoys to appeal for maid on death row in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — The Philippines ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met here Saturday with presidential envoys from Manila to plan the appeal of a young Filipino maid on death row for murdering her employer.

Ambassador Roy Seneres held talks in the UAE capital with former Supreme Court Justice Abdul Wahid Bidin and other experts in Islamic law who arrived earlier with the maid's parents and younger sister, a Philippine diplomat said.

Mr. Bidin was dispatched by Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who has already asked the UAE for clemency.

The appeal of the death sentence against Sarah Balabagan is set to begin Monday at the Islamic court in the oasis town of Al 'Ain, 160 kilometres east of Abu Dhabi.

The family was carrying Ms. Balabagan's birth certificate to disprove court claims the maid was 27 years old when she stabbed her Emirati employer to death with the knife she said he used to rape

her in July last year.

The family and her lawyers said she was only 15 at the time.

Last month the Islamic court in Al 'Ain condemned Ms. Balabagan to death after finding her guilty of the premeditated murder of her employer Mohammad Al Baloushi, who had been stabbed 34 times.

The sentence was handed down at a retrial ordered by UAE President Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, who cancelled a June verdict jailing her for seven years for manslaughter and awarding her compensation for being raped.

In the second trial, the judges said new testimony showed she had not been raped.

Meanwhile, Danilo Cruz, the labour attaché at the Philippine embassy here, said the defence team had so far failed to trace a witness who could bolster Ms. Balabagan's argument of self-defence.

The witness, a fellow Filipino and former employee of a recruitment agency in the

UAE, had reportedly heard Ms. Balabagan complain that Baloushi had sexually harassed her.

There were reports that the woman, Nolita Delizo, had left for neighbouring Oman but she has not been found, despite radio broadcasts from the Philippine community in Abu Dhabi which can be picked up in Oman, Mr. Cruz said.

During court proceedings on Aug. 30, the head of the recruitment agency, Mahmoud Farah, denied Ms. Balabagan had complained of sexual harassment and said Baloushi was "sexually too weak" to rape.

Authorities here were also questioning the defence's assertion that Ms. Balabagan was only 15 years old when she killed her employer, saying she is probably many years older.

The chief defence lawyer, Mohammad Al Amin, said Ms. Balabagan was brought to the UAE on a forged passport putting her age at 27, and said doctors who had examined her after the killing reported that she was 15.

Moroccan policeman kills two Britons in Tangier

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan policeman shot dead two Britons and wounded three other tourists, including a 12-year-old British girl, in a hotel in the northern Moroccan city of Tangier, police said on Saturday.

Police identified the dead couple as Martin and Margaret Gower, both in their 60s. The wounded girl was named as Charlene Parker.

Another British tourist, Patricia Cherratt, in her 50s, was in hospital with serious injuries in the back, the spokesman said. A Frenchman in his late 20s was also wounded.

A British embassy spokesman confirmed the deaths and said the girl was lightly wounded in the hand during the attack in the seafaring Tarik Hotel on Friday night.

Details were still sketchy but a spokesman for police in Tangier told Reuters that shooting started in the hotel bar after a police inspector in civilian clothes walked into the hotel after killing his wife, Samia Benjedi, and wounding her brother, at their home in this Mediterranean port city.

He said the attacker, who was unidentified, opened fire at random, killing the British couple and wounding the other three.

The spokesman said that first reports of the attacker being arrested were incorrect. He had escaped and a big manhunt was underway.

Police said the shooting appeared to be a crime of passion by a distraught husband who thought his wife was cheating on him during her frequent visits to the hotel.

A British embassy official in Rabat said a "rogue policeman" was responsible for the killings.

Last year, in another attack on a hotel, in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh, two Spanish tourists were killed. Three people of Algerian origin were sentenced to death for their part in the attack, which Rabat said at the time was part of a plot to destabilise the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Escorting of Israeli tourists dies in road accident

CAIRO (AP) — A police car escorting a bus of 24 Israeli tourists overturned on a road in northern Egypt, killing an officer and injuring five policemen, police sources said Saturday. The accident happened Friday night when the driver lost control of the wheel and the car flipped over on the highway between the Mediterranean cities of Port Said and Alexandria. The bus continued on to Alexandria, police said. Police often give escorts to tourists in Egypt to head off attacks by Muslim militants, who have targeted foreigners in their three-year campaign against Egypt's secular government. The crash was the third accident involving tourists in the past week. A Dutch and Danish tourist died when their taxi collided with a minibus in southern Egypt Friday, and 10 Nigerians were killed Wednesday when their bus crashed in the Sinai peninsula.

Tremor shakes Algeria; no damage reported

PARIS (R) — An earthquake measuring 3.5 on the open-ended Richter scale rocked the eastern Algerian region of Tereasa on Saturday, but no casualties or damage were reported, the Algerian official news agency APS said. The epicentre of the tremor, which struck at 8.25 a.m. (0725 GMT), was in Bekkaria village near Tebessa town, about 480 kilometre east of Algiers, APS said, quoting local seismological officials.

Relief donors visit south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Relief donors have begun a tour of south Sudan and war-affected and displaced people areas in assess needs in 1996 of relief materials, the Al Sudan Al Hadith daily said. The annual tour of the 12 delegations was aimed of getting acquainted with the infrastructures and situation of water, health and education services in the war-affected and displaced people areas, the daily cited an official at the Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Commission as saying. The delegations come from U.N. organisations, Operation Lifeline Sudan, the Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and foreign and local voluntary organisations. They will also gather information on the demographic features and population activities in addition to the economic conditions in the south Sudan states. Information on means of transport, animal resources, agricultural activities and production inputs, such as seeds and traditional cultivation tools, will be collected by the delegations.

U.N. to continue Gulf observation mission

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Despite financial difficulties, the U.N. Security Council will continue to maintain an observer mission on the border between Iraq and Kuwait, western diplomats said Friday. Security Council President Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali approving the continuation of the mission of 1,331 observers. In a report Monday, the United Nations chief recommended the continuation of the mission, in effect since the day after the Gulf war ended in 1991. He noted, however, that unpaid contributions to the special mission totalled \$37 million.

5 Algerians sentenced for German jail mutiny

KASSEL, Germany (R) — Five Algerians were convicted by a German court on Friday for taking a prison warden hostage when they tried to resist deportation in July 1994. The 22-hour prison mutiny was brought to a peaceful end by commandos. The court in the central German city of Kassel sentenced the five men aged 22 to 25 to between 2½ and 5½ years in prison for seizing the warden and threatening him with a knife in protest against conditions in the jail. Six other Algerians have already been sentenced to between 18 months and 5½ years on charges that included hostage taking, intimidation, breach of the peace and arson. Four more were released because of the time they spent in remand. Two have been deported and two others have gone underground, according to state prosecutors. The Algerians were mainly asylum seekers whose applications had been turned down.

Militants kill informant in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Three suspected militants shot and killed a man they believed was an informer Saturday and then tried to behead him before police stopped them. The assailants shot Fawzy Hammam in the village of Al Idarah in Minya province, a militant stronghold about 220 kilometres south of Cairo, police sources said. One of the militants then took a knife and tried to sever Hammam's head. But police, arriving late on the scene, started shooting and forced the assailants to flee, the sources said. Militants often target people they believe are collaborating with police. Saturday's attack was the second attempt to dismember a victim, apparently to spread fear among informers. Last month, militants shot dead a suspected informant and then beheaded and dismembered him with a butcher's knife.

Three killed as car hits camel

DUBAI (AFP) — A five-year-old boy and two other people died when the car in which they were travelling hit a camel in the United Arab Emirates, a newspaper reported Saturday. Three other passengers were injured in Friday's accident in the emirate of Umm Al Quwain, the English-language daily Gulf News said. Those who died were two UAE nationals — the five-year-old boy and a 26-year-old man — and a 40-year-old Egyptian man.

Rabin eyes history rather than the polls

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin, having narrowly beaten a right-wing challenge to his deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), will forge ahead with his vision of Middle East peace, his eye on history rather than the popularity polls, officials say.

Mr. Rabin pushed an agreement on widening Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank through parliament with just a two-vote majority early on Friday, after a 15-hour debate with thousands of protesters gathered outside.

That has given him a breathing space. Now he need not go back to parliament for endorsement of peace initiatives before the general election, due by November next year.

He could, if the agreement with the PLO runs smoothly, concentrate on reviving deadlocked talks with the last neighbouring

Arab hold-outs, Syria and Lebanon.

"Rabin is not impressed by polls, he is not looking to the election but to the longer-term goal he has to accomplish," government spokesman Uri Dromi said.

On the assumption that all politicians are after power, Mr. Rabin's critics should disagree with this statesmanlike characterisation. But many do not.

"Rabin will go on," said political analyst Efraim Inbar of the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv. "He is not considering things in electoral terms, he is interested in his place in history."

Supporters believe this strategy of not pandering to polls will get Mr. Rabin reelected. Opponents believe it will be his downfall.

Mr. Rabin is a gruff former general, not a glad-handing populist politician or backroom fixer.

If he is to rally a divided Israel and recapture the five per cent swing vote vital to success, it will be through

making the agreement with the PLO work on the ground rather than through political manoeuvring, Mr. Rabin's aides believe.

"Now it's up to the government to generate support through implementing the agreement," Mr. Dromi said.

"Rabin doesn't have the centre. He is painted as having been won over by Peres," Mr. Dromi said, referring to dovish Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Latest polls put Mr. Rabin neck-and-neck with right-wing opposition Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu at 42 per cent each.

Mr. Netanyahu, aware that Mr. Rabin was elected in June 1992 on a security ticket, now accuses his opponent of endangering Israel.

Mr. Rabin, the man who once ordered soldiers to break the bones of Palestinians at the start of the intifada, counters by assuring Israelis that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is their best hope of security.

He stressed during the parliamentary debate on the self-rule deal that he would not allow a Palestinian state or uproot strategic Jewish settlements in the West Bank or Gaza.

His opponents remain unconvinced. They accuse Mr. Rabin of abandoning consensus politics and ramming the PLO deal through.

"Rabin has mishandled the whole home front by estranging sections such as the religious people," Mr. Inbar said. "Not all the right-wing is against all parts of the peace deal, but Mr. Rabin does not know how to exploit this. Instead of dividing the opposition he has united them."

"Rabin has lost the centre and that's what counts in Israeli politics," Mr. Inbar added.

Can he win it back? Yes, say Mr. Rabin's aides and analysts like Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies — if there is a period of calm in the run-up to the election.

"The main variable here as always is terrorism," Mr. Heller said, recalling that Labour lost two to three seats to Likud because of a Palestinian fire-bomb attack on a bus three days before the 1993 election.

"The risk from Rabin's point of view from now on is all downside," he added.

Mr. Rabin's officials, however, say that political fall-out from suicide bombings has lessened since the latest wave of attacks began in 1994.

"More people accept that there will be isolated acts of terror as we move to a permanent peace," one aide commented. He noted that Likud was weak on this point since voters switched to Mr. Rabin precisely because Likud policies had failed to bring security.

"Right now the election is too close to call," Mr. Heller said. "Rabin is vulnerable to terrorism... and the Achilles heel of the opposition is that they don't yet have a credible alternative to put to voters."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TIMES TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-14	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	The Flintstones
14:30	Joshua Jones
14:45	Dr. Quinn, M.D.
15:00	Scientific Eye
15:30	I Love Lucy
16:00	Tarzan
17:00	Children's Programme — Les Mondes Enchantés
17:30	Serie — Fruits Et Légumes
18:00	Middle Europe
18:30	News in French
19:15	Ushin
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Nurses
20:00	Cinema, Cinema
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Murder She Wrote
22:00	News in English
22:25	Mini-Series — Voices Within
00:30	Keeping Up Appearances
PRAYER TIMES	
04:13	Fajr
05:30	Dhuhr
11:23	Dhuhr
14:43	'Asr
17:17	Maghrib
18:34	'Isa
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624900	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church, Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 625441	
Anglican Church, Tel. 653026	
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church, Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation, Tel. 684195	
The Latter-day Saints, Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth, Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman, Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Moderate weather conditions are expected to prevail during the day but relatively cool at night with wind northwesterly light to moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman 15/28	

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	Rescue
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Police	112
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896300
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605880
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radios Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680101
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636281
RJ Flight Information	18-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	18-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Thussan Medical Centre	81381/332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann	644281/6
AKILAH MATERNITY, J. Ann.	
Jabal Amman Maternity	64241/2
Mulhas, J. Ann	636140
Pakistan, Shmehani	664171/4
Shmehani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845645
Al-Musader Hospital	6672270
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	775111/25
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	667135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Gov. Hospital	019/983323
Zarqa National Hospital	
09:25	Beirut (RJ)
09:35	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15	Brussels (RJ)
10:45	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
17:00	Paris (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:15	Athens (RJ)
19:40	Rome (RJ)
19:40	Vienna (RJ)
20:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
21:30	Madrid (add) (RJ)
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 532000, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:30	Bangkok (RJ)
07:45	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Jeddah (RJ)
08:45	Luxembourg (RJ)
09:05	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:10	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:25	Beirut (RJ)
09:50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:15	Brussels (RJ)
11:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:25	Athens (RJ)
13:30	Jeddah (RJ)
14:00	Vienna (RJ)
14:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
14:15	Rome (RJ)
14:30	Munich (RJ)
14:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
15:25	Athens (RJ)
16:30	Jeddah (RJ)
16:45	New Delhi (RJ)
16:55	Damascus (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:20	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
21:50	Bangkok (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Aqaba (RJ)
05:40	Beirut (RJ)
06:30	Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:30	Madrid (add) (RJ)
10:30	Munich (RJ)
11:00	Paris (add) (RJ)
11:00	Jeddah (RJ)
11:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:15	Rome (RJ)
11:30	Munich (RJ)
11:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:25	Athens (RJ)
13:30	Jeddah (RJ)
14:00	Vienna (RJ)
14:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
14:15	Rome (RJ)
14:30	Munich (RJ)
14:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
15:25	Athens (RJ)
16:30	Jeddah (RJ)
16:45	New Delhi (RJ)
16:55	Damascus (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
21:20	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
21:50	Bangkok (RJ)

21:35	Paris (add) (RJ)	22:45	Sana'a (RJ)
23:30	Munich, Geneva (RJ)	22:45	Aqaba (RJ)
00:30	Cairo (RJ)		
01:00	Aqaba (RJ)		
Other flights (Terminal 2)			
06:30	Sana'a (YY)	06:30	Rome (AZ)
12:40	Lahor, SINGA (GF)	07:45	Beirut (ME)
12:40	Moscow (GF)	12:30	Singapore (SU)
15:15	Rome, Damascus (AZ)	13:30	Doha (GF)
15:15	Cairo (MS)	15:05	Moscow (SU)
20:10	Beirut, (ME)	20:25	Caro (MS)
21:10	Lahor, Beirut (BA)	21:35	Beirut, London (BA)
22:30	Istanbul (TK)	01:35	Amsterdam (SA)
22:30	Athens (OA)	03:00	Athens (OA)
00:25	Amsterdam (KL)		
01:20	London (KJ)		
MARKET PRICES			
Lipstick/lbwt price in fish per kg.			
DEPARTURES			
Royal Jordanian (RJ)			
Flights			
(Terminal 1)			
05:40	Aqaba (RJ)	Apple	70K/500
06:30	Beirut (RJ)	Banano	600
08:30	Aqaba (RJ)	Banana (Mukammari)	620
10:30	Madrid (add) (RJ)	Cabbage	200/150
10:30	Vienna, Munich (RJ)	Carrot	430/330
11:00	Paris (add) (RJ)	Cauliflower	200/225
11:00	Vienna (RJ)	Cucumbers (large)	300/1100
11:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)	Cucumbers (small)	300/1100
11:25	Rome (RJ)	Eggplant	250/160
11:45	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	Garden	78K/500
12:45	Athens (RJ)	Ginseng	70K/500
20:20	Jeddah (RJ)	Guava	400/250
20:25	New Delhi (RJ)	Lemon	250/200
20:45	Damascus (RJ)	Marrow (large)	200K/1400
21:20	Ahu Dhahi, Dubai (RJ)	Marrow (small)	340/1200
21:45	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)	Mulshia	210/1750
21:50	Bangkok (RJ)	Okra (small)	400/1750
		Onion (large)	240/1500
		Pepper (hot)	240/1500
		Pepper (sweet)	200/150
		Pomegranate	170/270
		Potato	300/200
		Sprach	300/200
		Turkey Beans	NS0/160
		Turnip	NS0/160

Princess Sarvath pays tribute to 14-year cooperation with Ambassador Foundation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, president of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), met Saturday with Joseph Locke, vice president of the U.S.-based Ambassador Foundation, a Royal Court statement said.

Princess Sarvath hosted a reception in honour of Mr. Locke and the 145 participants of the Ambassador Foundation Annual Convention, currently being held here, the statement said.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Saturday greets guests at a reception she hosted in honour of Vice President of the Ambassador Foundation Joseph Locke (left) and 145 participants to the foundation's annual convention which is convening in Amman (Photo by Boghos)

Addressing the gathering at Basman Palace, Princess Sarvath reviewed the 14-year relationship that the Ambassador Foundation has had with the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) and the association's programmes to assist mentally handicapped children to lead productive lives.

The Princess recalled her first meeting in 1982 with the founder of the Ambassador Foundation, Herbert Armstrong, and his promise at the time to send foundation volunteers to Jordan.

In the past 14 years, the Princess said, the 74 Ambassador Foundation volunteers have "more than

fulfilled that promise."

Princess Sarvath added that the foundation and its volunteers have made an invaluable contribution towards the building of the pre-vocational unit at the YWMA Centre for Special Education, a pioneer project which is considered a centre of excellence both nationally and regionally, the statement said.

The success of the Centre

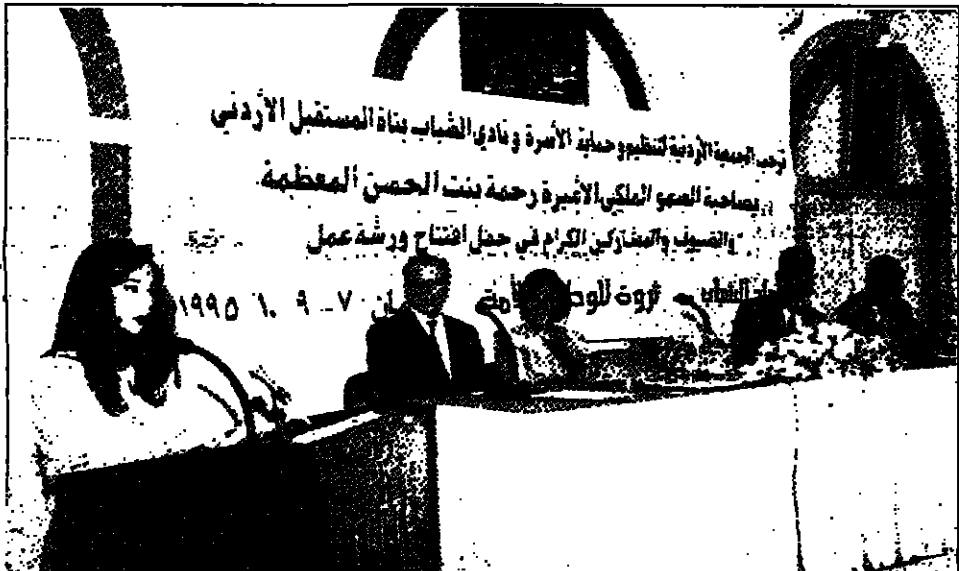
for Special Education, the Princess said, also led to the establishment in 1987 of the YWMA Sheltered Workshop, which has been declared by the International Labour Organisation as a model for the region. According to the statement, the Ambassador Foundation was established in 1975 by the Worldwide Church of God to promote international

understanding between peoples, and at present has 21 volunteers in Jordan at the Amman Baccalaureate School, the YWMA Sheltered Workshop and the YWMA Centre for Special Education. The foundation conducts its activities in a way that transcends political, religious and ethnic complexities and has projects in over 20 countries around the world.

National programme needed to define young people's priorities, says Princess Rahma

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Saturday opened a three-day workshop on promoting the role of youth in Jordan's development and underlined the need for a national programme to serve the young and help them deal with life's challenges.

"We have a serious duty as people, a state and as organisations to work out a national programme that would define young people's priorities in offering public service, in fighting unemployment and in utilising the land as was first proposed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent," said Princess Rahma.



Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Saturday addresses the opening session of a workshop on the role of youth in Jordan's development (Photo by Yousef Al'Allan)

The proposed national programme, she said, aims at creating a bond between the young and their homeland by encouraging them to carry out productive work, creating for them balanced opportunities for their future, and catering to the needs of their country.

This workshop, she added, also aims at directing youth to become involved in social, health, economic and other fields because they represent the wealth of the nation and its future.

Issues of concern to the

young, said Princess Rahma, are also subjects of concern to other sectors of Jordanian society. These issues, she said, include family planning, broken families, hereditary diseases and unemployment.

But the young, being a creative and strong asset to society, need to be helped in order to define their objectives and their roles in life, added the Princess.

Organised by the Jordanian Family Planning Soci-

ety (JFPS) in cooperation with the Youth Building the Future Club, the workshop is to discuss a range of topics tackling demographic issues and their relation to sustainable development, health matters and the young, as well as the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in developing young people's skills.

According to JFPS prominent member Buthaina Jardaneh, the society has worked out a strategy for itself until the

year 2001 covering activities such as seminars and lectures dealing with health issues, family planning services and others.

Because youth account for half the population in Jordan, the JFPS is directing special attention to them; its efforts are directed at enlisting various organisations' assistance to the young in order to enable them to play a pioneering role in the country's development.

Arab, German surgeons to convene conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Surgeons from nine Arab countries and Germany will meet in Amman on Oct. 16 for a general conference on surgery organised by the Jordanian Surgical Society (JSS), the Pan-Arab Association of Surgeons and the Jordanian-German Medical Society.

At least 300 delegates from these countries will review 61 working papers dealing with various surgical specialisations and techniques in addition to several working papers dealing with exchange of expertise in surgery among specialists from the Arab World, JSS President Wael Fatayer said Saturday.

After the opening session the delegates will hear a lecture on the impact of Arab medicine on European medicine in history delivered by Hassan Khreis, secretary general of the Arab Doctors Union, said Dr. Fatayer.

He said that on the sidelines of the meeting an

exhibition organised by local, Arab and international firms will display the latest equipment used in surgery and other hospital requirements.

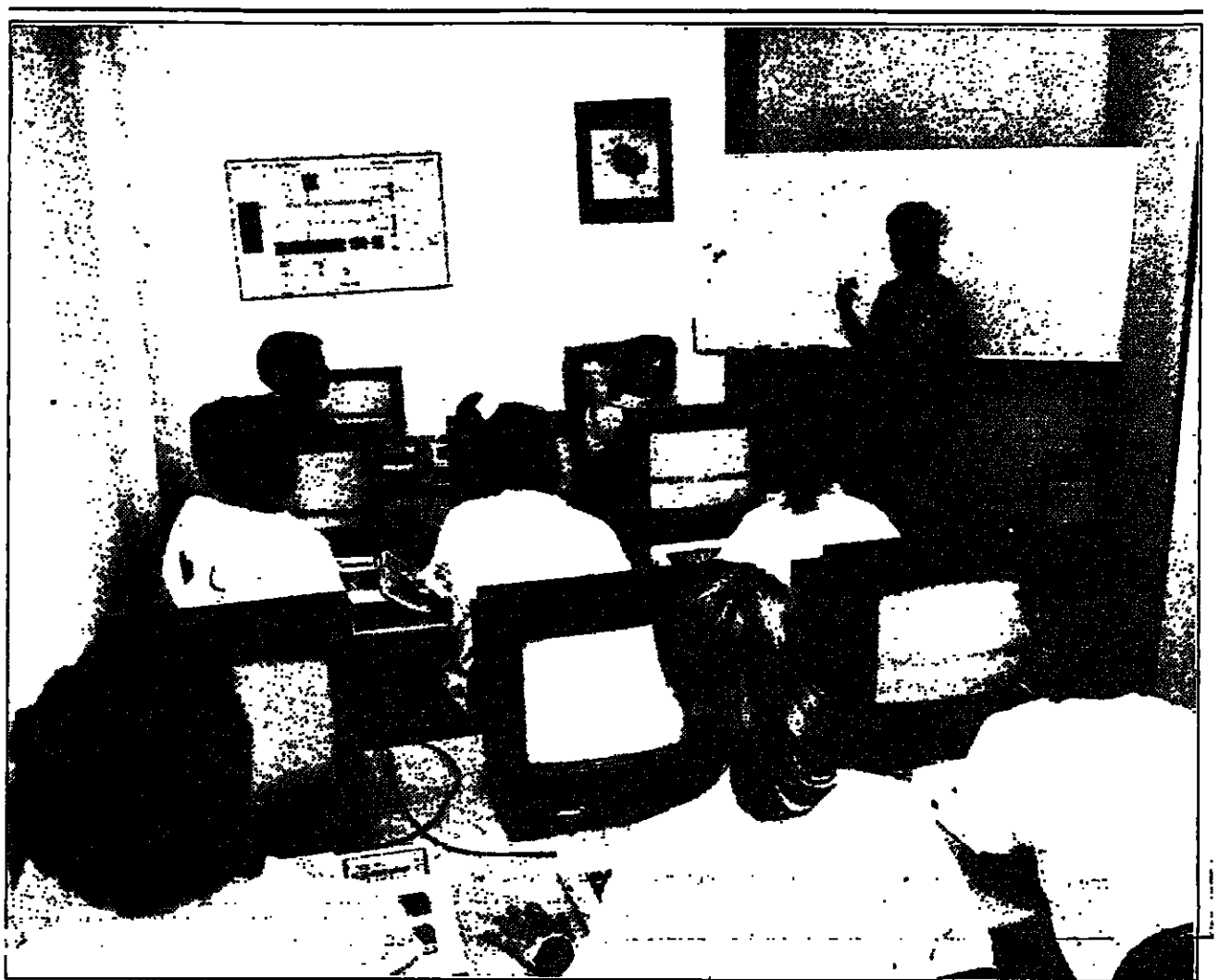
Also during the conference a workshop on surgery will be held at the Jordan University Hospital attended by the visiting delegations, Dr. Fatayer said.

The Arab countries to be represented at the conference are Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and

Jordan, according to Dr. Fatayer who added that a special programme has been arranged for the visiting delegations to tour Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites.

He said that there are 160 Jordanian surgeons in the JSS.

The organisation was established in 1973 to help promote surgery techniques in the country and to enhance JSS's cooperation with organisations in other parts of the world.



Students learn basic computer skills in the classroom (file photo)

Experts assess impact of 1987 conference on basic education

IRBID (Petra) — A five-day conference opened at Yarmouk University Saturday to assess the impact of the 1987 educational conference on basic education in Jordan.

Delegates representing Jordanian universities and the Ministry of Education taking part in the meetings will review research papers dealing with the development of the education process in general, basic education

obstacles to the educational development process and solutions to these problems, according to Shadia Tell, dean of the education faculty which is organising the meeting.

This conference aims at assessing the achievements of the 1987 National Educational Conference and on whether it has been successful in responding to the needs of the society.

The meetings were opened by Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal who said the university took the initiative to conduct an assessment of the educational conference and the impact of its resolutions and recommendations on basic education in order to examine their relevance to and benefits for the country in the 21st century.

The first stage of the educational development process which began in 1987 in implementation of the conference's resolutions

focused on the infrastructure, school buildings and upgrading school syllabuses and promoting the qualifications and efficiency of teachers, Dr. Kamal said.

He said that the second stage, which started in 1993, focused on quality rather than quantity in education, and that the school is the basic unit for social as well as educational development.

NEWS IN BRIEF

March planned for Environment Day

Amman (Petra) — As part of its celebrations of the Arab Environment Day, which falls on Oct. 14, the Jordan Environment Society (JES) in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the United

States Agency for International Cooperation (USAID) and the University of Jordan will organise a march on Friday, Oct. 13, under the theme "every drop of water counts." The march aims to sensitize people to the need for cutting down on the consumption of water and to conserve water sources.

'Landslide-prone areas to be monitored year round'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Saturday signed an agreement whereby the RJGC will survey roads and monitor

landslide-prone areas throughout the year.

The first stretches of road to be monitored will be on the Amman-Jerash-Irbid Highway and the Amman-Naour-Dead Sea Road which have witnessed

many landslides in recent years.

According to the latest studies, more landslides are expected in these areas.

Landslides on these two highways have interrupted traffic several times in past

winters.

Under the agreement, the RJGC will set up surveillance posts to conduct periodic measurements at certain points on these roads starting Dec. 1, and once every month starting May 1

WHAT'S GOING ON

SEMINAR

"Twenty Five Years after Jamal Abdul Nasser," (in Arabic) with the participation of Hussein Majali, Abdul Aziz Al'Ati, and Abdul Ghaffar Shukur at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

* Arabic calligraphy by Ali 'Abadi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.

* A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun, Jebel Weibdeh.

* Sculptures by Iraqi artist Kazem Shammoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um

Utheina.

* Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisari.

* Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.

* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

Autopsy reveals woman committed suicide

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An autopsy on a 24-year-old woman found shot Thursday in her house near the Sports City revealed that the woman had committed suicide, according to confirmed sources.

One source said the victim, identified only as L.B., shot herself in the chest in the afternoon with her husband's gun.

There was no apparent motive for her suicide, the source said.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Saturday refused to reveal any details.

Police arrest murder suspects in Karak

Karak police Thursday announced the arrest of two Egyptian nationals in connection with the murder of a 22-year-old man, whose body was found on Monday hidden under a pile of vegetation in Al Sama' area in Ghor Safi, according to police reports.

The report said the victim, Jamal Abu Zeinab, also an Egyptian, was sleeping in the farm he worked in when he was attacked by K.H., 21, and M.A., 37. It said both men struck Jamal in the head several times with a brick, and dragged his body about 100 metres to the site where it was found.

According to the report, the murder was motivated by feud over money matters.

Meanwhile, police said they were still investigating the murder of a 10-year-old child in Ghor Safi, whose body was found buried near a deserted house. Preliminary examinations indicated that Hassan Mohammad, who had been reported missing for five days, might have been sexually assaulted, confirmed sources said.

Murder trial continues

The Criminal Court Saturday heard the testimony of more witnesses in the case of a 25-year-old woman accused of killing a man who allegedly sexually harassed her.

Hanan Adnan, is charged with shooting and killing Mousa Hussein on Sept. 1, 1995 in the backyard of her house in Ajloun, according to court papers.

She pleaded innocent to the charge of murder.

During the 20-minute session, the court heard the testimony of Ahmad Hassan, a neighbour of the defendant, who said he heard four gunshots while he was sitting on the roof of his house.

"When I went to check the matter, I saw Hanan shaking and holding a pistol and she told me 'I killed him so that my father will be proud of me,'" Mr. Hassan said.

The witness said Ms. Adnan told him, "He has been harassing me for the past three years and wanted to ruin my reputation and commit adultery with me."

Presiding Judge Abdul Ruhman Tawfiq set Oct. 22 as the new date to hear the autopsy report and the testimony of a forensic expert, as well as that of two other witnesses.

Yeltsin considers Chechenya moves after bomb explosion

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Saturday weighed up introducing a state of emergency in the Chechen capital after a bomb attack on Russia's top military commander in the region threw the fragile peace process into crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman told ITAR-TASS news agency the president was examining the pros and cons of the government's call for a state of emergency in Grozny after Friday's attack which severely injured Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov.

"It is necessary to consider all the consequences which could follow declaring a state of emergency," spokesman Sergei Medvedev said, adding Mr. Yeltsin saw grounds for the proposal.

Gen. Romanov's condition improved slightly overnight and doctors decided to transfer him from the North Caucasus town of Vladikavkaz to Moscow.

"General Romanov's condition remains serious but there have been positive signs

of improvement," Vladikavkaz Military Hospital director Rudolf An told Ekho Moskvy radio.

He said Gen. Romanov, 47, who suffered serious head, abdominal and leg injuries, had been breathing with the aid of a respirator but was now breathing independently. "The doctors took a decision to evacuate him to Moscow," Dr. An said.

Three servicemen died and 15 other people were injured when a bomb detonated by remote control blew up as Gen. Romanov's motorcade passed through an underpass in the centre of Grozny.

The attack — the second assassination attempt against a top Moscow official in Chechenya in just over two weeks — threw the fragile Chechen peace process into crisis.

Tension is high in Chechenya where moves towards a settlement have stalled over both sides' refusal to compromise on political issues and to implement military agreements.

Interfax News Agency quoted Russian command in the region as saying two servicemen had died and 16 had been wounded in attacks on Moscow forces in the past 24 hours.

Four people died late Friday in what Interfax described as a bandit attack on a Grozny hostel for railway workers.

A curfew is still in force in Grozny and it was not clear what extra measures a state of emergency would involve.

Thousands of people have been killed and many more have been made homeless since Moscow sent forces to crush the historically Muslim region's bid for independence launched by separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in 1991.

Fighting subsided in June when peace talks began but there has been little progress in implementing key provisions of a military agreement which involved disarming the rebels and withdrawing most

Russian forces.

The rebels have also refused to accept Moscow's political demand that Chechenya remain part of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Friday said Moscow would honour deals with the rebels "despite provocation and terrorist acts."

On Sept. 20 Mr. Yeltsin's envoy to Chechenya, Oleg Lobov, narrowly escaped death in a bomb attack in Grozny.

Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov, who often met Gen. Romanov to discuss implementation of the military deal, told a news conference in Grozny Saturday some in Chechenya and Russia wanted the conflict to continue, local journalists said.

"We denounce these criminal acts and call on all those who are interested in a peaceful solution of the conflict not to allow new military adventures," Mr. Maskhadov said.



An artist's impression of the scene inside Winchester Crown Court as leading prosecution counsel Brian Leveson (standing) opens the multi-murder case against Rosemary West who is sketched sitting in the dock with the jury looking on (background right) (AFP photo)

U.K. defendant, husband abused girls, killed them — prosecutor

WINCHESTER, England (AP) — A woman charged with serial murder joined her husband in sexually abusing and killing young women they had lured to their home, a prosecutor said.

Rosemary West, 41, whose husband Frederick hanged himself rather than face murder charges, is charged with the murder of 10 young women, including her daughter and step-daughter. She denies the charges.

Police digging at the Wests' home in Gloucester last year unearthed the dismembered skeletons of nine young women, including Mrs. West's 16-year-old daughter, Heather, and another youngster who was eight months pregnant, prosecution attorney Brian Leveson said.

Eight of the bodies had been decapitated, most were missing some bones, and were naked and gagged, he said. All the victims were 21 or younger.

The crown alleges that over a period of many years, especially between 1972 and 1979, girls staying at or visiting 25 Cromwell St., or who were enticed or simply abducted, were taken there for sexual abuse, and by Rosemary and Frederick West, in a most depraved and most appalling way," Mr. Leveson said.

"Those whom the Wests believed would not complain... lived. Those who were believed to pose a threat... did not. For them the option was death."

Other young women "who came and went over the years have spoken of violent and degrading sexual activity,"

Mr. Leveson said.

He told the 12 jurors in Winchester Crown Court that much of the evidence will be "horrific and harrowing."

The stout, bespectacled Mrs. West, who was flanked by two uniformed women constables, listened intently from the dock. As Mr. Leveson described how police found the bodies, she wept, dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief.

The trial in Winchester, a quiet cathedral city 100 kilometres southwest of London, opened Tuesday and is expected to last up to eight weeks.

Mrs. West is charged with murdering young women between 1972 and June 1987, the month her dark-haired daughter disappeared. She has also pleaded innocent to four counts of rape and indecent assault involving two girls aged eight and 14.

Mr. Leveson said Elizabeth Agius, a former neighbour of the Wests, would testify that the couple told her "how they would both go together looking for young girls who were hitchhiking... pick them up and get them to lodge with them."

The Wests told Mrs. Agius that it was easier to lure a young girl into their car if Mrs. West was present and that they preferred girls who were leaving home, because they usually had nowhere to live, he said.

Caroline Owens, who was picked up in 1972, aged 17, left after becoming uneasy when Mrs. West seemed "over-attentive to her," stroking her hair and entering the bathroom while she was

bathing, Mr. Leveson said.

During a later encounter, the Wests fondled Caroline in their car, then bound her with adhesive tape and took her home, where they sexually abused her, he said.

Frederick West later threatened to kill her "and bury you under the paving stones of Gloucester."

She escaped and told police. The couple were fined in January 1973 after pleading guilty to charges of actual bodily harm and indecent assault.

On Feb. 24, 1994 police obtained a warrant to search the house at 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester, where the Wests had lived since 1972.

Heather's skeleton was under the patio, Mr. Leveson said. Her skull had been hacked from the spine and the bones chopped into bits.

Each of the bodies, said Mr. Leveson, "was dumped without decency or respect in a different hole some three feet below the ground in the garden, in the cellar, or underneath a bathroom."

Mrs. West's first victim is alleged to have been her eight-year-old stepdaughter, Charmaine, in 1972. Police found her remains at the Wests' former home in Gloucester.

Her 53-year-old husband, a builder, who had been charged with 12 murders, was found hanging in his prison cell on Jan. 1. He also was accused of killing his first wife, Catherine Costello, and a family nanny.

All the victims were British except Therese Siegenthaler, 21, a Swiss student who disappeared in 1974.

Living New Zealanders make it onto stamp series

WELLINGTON (AFP) — For the first time in philatelic history here living New Zealanders have made it onto postage stamps. New Zealand post chief executive Elmar Toime has announced that for the first time pictures of living people other than the royal family would appear on the country's postage stamps. Among the six faces, four are still very much alive: opera diva Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, former cricketer Sir Richard Hadlee, novelist Barry Crump and retired heart surgeon Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes. Two other faces in the series belong to double Victoria Cross winner Charles Upham who died this year and Maori leader Dame Whina Cooper who died two years ago. Absent is Everest conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary, but he has already bent the rules once by becoming the only living Kiwi to appear on currency — his rugged face graces the five-dollar bill. Until 30 years ago, no New Zealander had made it onto a stamp. About 20 have now appeared, but after their death.

It's official: Chemistry lectures are boring

LONDON (AFP) — A scientist has come up with proof of something students have known for years: chemistry lectures are boring. In an article published in the current issue of Chemistry in Britain, a university chemistry lecturer — introduced a guest lecturer to a class of 50 doctoral candidates. Then, he and colleagues studied variations in what he calls the HTFDR — "head-to-floor distance reduction." After about an hour, the average HTFDR dropped from 135 centimetres (62 inches) to 121 centimetres (55 inches), said the author of the study, who preferred to remain anonymous. The HTFDR immediately bounced back to normal when the speaker uttered the magic words, "and in conclusion..."

Museum pays \$2.1 m to save painting for China

BEIJING (R) — China's Palace Museum has paid a record 18 million yuan (\$2.1 million) to save an 11th century painting for the nation, museum and auction officials said Friday. Pictures Of 10 Poems, the only surviving work by northern Song dynasty (960-1127) poet Zhang Xian, disappeared about 60 years ago after being in the collection of China's emperors for centuries, an official of the Hanhai Art Auction Corp said. The price was a record for a Chinese painting at auction. The work reappeared in June after vanishing into private hands a few years after the 1911 overthrow of China's last Emperor, Pu Yi, the official said. The first bid at Thursday's auction came from Yang Xin, vice-curator of the Palace Museum, based in the former home of China's emperors in Beijing, who raised his hand at the 6.6 million yuan (\$795,000) starting price. After 25 bids in two minutes, Yang bought the painting for 18 million yuan. "We planned no top price," Yang told the Xinhua News Agency after the auction. "We decided to overcall any higher price of the other bidders." The museum was responding to a public outcry for the picture, painted in 1064, to be saved for the nation, officials said. The ink and colour handscroll, painted on silk, features Chinese gentlemen playing chess in a riverside pavilion. The auction catalogue said only Chinese museums, libraries or state organisations could buy it. Officials declined to reveal the identity of the private seller.

Juppe denies he will resign, but scandal forces apartment move

PARIS (AP) — French financial markets reeled and Premier Alain Juppe again denied resignation rumours, as he faced a corruption probe and polls indicating eroding faith he can fix the economy.

But the conservative prime minister also said he and his family will move out of their city-owned apartments, the subject of a judicial investigation of allegations Mr. Juppe abused power to lower the rent or pay for renovations.

"My children have or will move in the coming weeks and I will do the same to turn the page which, I repeat, is for me a deep wound," Mr. Juppe told France Culture radio.

It was not clear what effect, if any, the move would have on the probe of his actions while assistant Paris mayor in charge of finances from 1989-1993.

The scandal comes as Mr. Juppe struggles to cut the budget deficit and fight 11.5 per cent unemployment. He faces a crippling strike Tuesday by more than 5 million public employees opposed to a pay freeze next year.

Unions representing Air France workers called on their members Friday to join the walkout.

As investors saw Mr. Juppe's troubles deepen, the French franc fell rapidly against the dollar and the German mark, and stocks on the bourse fell more than 2 per cent by Friday afternoon before recovering. The franc stood at its lowest point since

May, at about 3.52 to the mark and 5 to the dollar, up about 5 centimes.

Investors also worried that the group of seven meeting this weekend in Washington could alter the European Union's game plan for a single currency by 1999.

The financial turbulence prompted the Bank of France to take the extraordinary move Friday afternoon of indefinitely suspending its five- to 10-day lending operations. The effect was to boost interest rates, bolstering the franc and pushing the bourse back up about .51 per cent for the day.

But market analysts saw the action as a quick fix that could not last without tougher action by the government to cut the deficit running at 322 billion francs (\$64 billion).

Mr. Juppe, whose popularity ratings have fallen from 60 per cent four months ago to the 30s this week, has been fighting off criticism from both the left and right. His 1996 budget plan raises taxes and cuts spending to reduce the deficit to 290 billion francs (\$58 billion) next year.

Mr. Juppe's office Friday "most firmly" denied — for at least the third time — persistent market rumours that the embattled head of government was resigning.

The premier, at a meeting of party leaders, said Friday evening that he would remain "at Jacques Chirac's side" as long as he had "the conviction I'm useful... I will not let myself be deterred from

my task."

Newspapers reported Thursday that Juppe had the authority to sign documents for President Jacques Chirac, then mayor of Paris, which gave him power over housing issues.

The conservative premier has been accused by a Paris taxpayers' association of cutting his son's rent on a city apartment and making the city pay 1 million francs (\$200,000) to renovate his own apartment.

Rent on Laurent Juppe's 88-square-metre (950-square-foot) apartment in the fashionable Saint Germain Des Pres neighbourhood was cut from 7,000 francs (\$1,400) to 6,000 francs (\$1,200) — about 30 per cent lower than market rates.

Mr. Juppe and Mr. Chirac, previously were criticised for paying sub-market rent on their own apartments.

Meanwhile, the 11-day trial ended Friday for a former conservative government minister and seven others charged with corruption for alleged kickbacks in exchange for a grenoble city water contract.

Alain Carignon, former Grenoble mayor and an environment and communications minister in two conservative governments in the late 1980s and early 90s, contended he was innocent of the charges.

Mr. Carignon was forced to resign as communications minister in September last year after he was charged with passive corruption.

Florida residents threatened by floods

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Florida (AP) — Florida panhandle residents still cleaning up from the ravages of hurricane Opal awoke Friday to a new threat: Flooding from storm-swollen rivers.

The heavy rains Opal brought to Alabama and Georgia were causing rivers downstream in Florida to swell, forcing evacuations late Thursday and early Friday along the Blackwater and Yellow rivers east of Pensacola. Both rivers empty into the Gulf of Mexico.

"We're downstream from everything. The rain that fell in Alabama and Georgia is now coming down towards us," said Jo Miglino, a spokeswoman for the State Emergency Operations Centre.

Floods were the latest damage from Opal, which killed at least 18 people in four states after slamming into the Florida panhandle Wednesday with winds up to 144 mph (230 kph). The hurricane caused an estimated \$1.8 billion in damage to insured property along the Gulf of Mexico, mostly from the 15-foot (4.5 metre) storm surge.

Thousands of frustrated, angry and tired beachfront residents who had fled to Alabama and Georgia Wednesday began returning home Friday.

"We expected the worst when we left. It was nice to see something standing," said Jennifer Swift, 22, who returned to this devastated town before daylight to find her mother's four-bedroom beachfront home still standing but with extensive damage.

But many residents returned from inland shelters Thursday only to find that authorities had sealed off the hardest-hit areas to forestall looting, repair roads and assess damage.

"I just want to get back and see if I have a home," Kathy Fisher said.

Ms. Fisher and several hundred other evacuees ate barbecued chicken and ribs, drank coffee and waited at a high school in Panama City, where scores of hotels, businesses and homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

In Florida, 1,137 people spent Thursday night in shelters, down from 10,000 to 15,000 the night of the storm, Mr. Miglino said. About 4,500 National Guard members were posted in the panhandle to prevent looting.

The storm lost its punch as it blew through Alabama but still knocked out power to 2 million people in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. Many remained without power early Friday.

A half dozen families who live along the Blackwater River, which enters the panhandle from Alabama, were evacuated Thursday night. Dozens of families downriver at Paradise Island, just north of Milton, were being told to evacuate Friday.

Insurance industry officials said the initial damage estimates made Opal the third-costliest U.S. hurricane in terms of insured losses.

Children march for peace in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — More than 400 children, many of them disabled or mentally retarded, marched for peace in Pakistan's violence-racked city of Karachi where two more people were killed Saturday, police said.

Riding in ambulances and vans, convoys of children passed through some of the worst hit areas of district central and east before assembling at the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The children came from the orphanages of Pakistan's best known social worker, Abdul Sattar Edhi, who runs the largest network of ambulances and shelter homes in the country.

"Some of the children in this march have lost their fathers in the senseless violence in Karachi," Mr. Edhi, who organised the peace rally, told Reuters.

"Their poor mothers handed them to us as they were not in a position to bring them up."

More than two dozen children were brought to the mausoleum in wheelchairs and on stretchers to pray for peace. White banners and flags were used to shade the children from the sun.

"We have come to pray for peace," nine-year-old Imran said.

More than 1,540 people have been killed in political and sectarian violence this year, almost double the figure killed in 1994.

The government accuses the ethnic MQM (Mohajir Qawmi Movement), which speaks for the social and economic rights of Urdu-

speaking people who migrated from India at the time of partition in 1947, for most of the violence in Karachi.

The MQM blames the state security agencies for the killings.

MQM-government talks stalled when the MQM boycotted talks on Sept. 26 to protest against what it says, were extra-judicial killings and torture of its supporters by the security forces.

The MQM-government talks have dragged on since July 11 without any apparent breakthrough.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot dead a policeman near his residence in north Karachi, raising this year's police casualties to 163, police said. Police shot dead a person in eastern Korangi area. No further details were available.

homen have been buried have constructed tree houses and have refused to leave the area because they said government evacuation centres are already overcrowded.

"They said they will resettle us, but there is no place where they can place us," a homeless woman told state-owned television in Manila.

Thousands of villagers living in low-lying towns north of Manila were likewise warned Saturday of floods as torrential rains have filled up dams in the area.

"The people there have been informed about the danger of floods," George Sarino, the provincial police commander of Bulacan province north of the Philippine capital, told a Manila radio station.

Filipino mudflows to bury more towns

MANILA (R) — Tens of thousands of people were warned Saturday that their homes will be buried when heavy rains wash millions of tonnes of volcanic debris down from the sides of the Philippines' Mount Pinatubo in the coming years.

More than 100 people died in floods and mudflows when tropical storm Sibby swept across Pampanga province northwest of Manila a week ago.

Bacolor town has almost vanished under mud and ash carried down from deposits formed by Pinatubo's big 1991 eruption.

Scientists and local officials said other population centres that will share its fate include San Fernando, a city of 300,000 and the capital of

Pampanga province, and Minalin, a village of around 50,000 people.

"Minalin is at risk, San Fernando is at risk. That is the trend we are seeing," Raymundo Panongbayan, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, told reporters after an inspection of the area.

People living in villages near Bacolor may have no choice but to leave or risk losing their lives, local officials said.

"We are trying to assess what we have to do between now and the next rainy season," Tony Fernandez, chairman of the commission in charge of taking care of people made homeless by the mudflows, told reporters.

Some of those whose

homes have been buried have constructed tree houses and have refused to leave the area because they said government evacuation centres are already overcrowded.

"They said they will resettle us, but there is no place where they can place us," a homeless woman told state-owned television in Manila.

Thousands of villagers living in low-lying towns north of Manila were likewise warned Saturday of floods as torrential rains have filled up dams in the area.

"The people there have been informed about the danger of floods," George Sarino, the provincial police commander of Bulacan province north of the Philippine capital, told a Manila radio station.

70 die in Indonesian earthquake

PADANG, Indonesia (R) — A powerful earthquake struck Sumatra Saturday, toppling deadly landslides onto the villages of a remote mountain region.

Rescue workers have uncovered 70 bodies and "we feel there are more dead to be found," an army officer on the island told Reuters by telephone.

The Meteorology and Geophysics Office, revising an earlier measurement, said the quake was centred 16 kilometres west of Sungai Penuh, the capital of Kerinci district near Sumatra's west coast.

It registered seven on the open-ended Richter Scale and hit at 1.09 a.m. (1809 GMT Friday).

A resident of Sungai Penuh quoted the local head of police as saying that 63 bodies had been found, many of them from nearby villages including 17 from Semurup 10 kilometres north of Sungai Penuh.

Most of the casualties appeared to have been in the villages of Lempur and Tanjung Rawang wedged between some of the tallest mountains in western Indonesia.

Two hundred people were known to have been injured. Panic-stricken residents of Sungai Penuh, 750 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, said they had fled their homes after the quake shook the town, toppling hundreds of buildings.

"It was really tough, everything was a mess. I saw people running out of their houses, houses were just collapsing. Something like this has never happened in this area before," an elderly resident named Irawati told Reuters by telephone.

"We spent the night on the streets," she said.

Most had returned home by afternoon, but said they were still wary.

"I am still afraid. If anything moves I feel shocked and worry it's going to be another one," one woman said.

The quake was felt as far as Singapore but oil fields and refineries on Sumatra reported no damage.

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Strike paralyses Bangladesh cities

DHAKA (R) — A general strike paralysed the Bangladesh capital Dhaka and four other major cities Saturday in the latest opposition-led stoppage intensifying efforts to oust Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Saturday is a working day in Muslim Bangladesh, but all private and most government offices, schools and businesses were closed, witnesses said.

Authorities deployed nearly 7,000 police and paramilitary troops in the capital of nine million people, deprived of transport except for a few rickshaws seen on the streets.

The 32-hour stoppage hit Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal, the country's political and economic nerve-centres. Rajshahi, the other major city in the north, was exempted from the strike after floods sent millions of people fleeing from their homes, opposition parties said.

Witnesses said the sponsors needed little obvious effort to enforce the strike, which heralded a new phase in a long-running anti-government campaign.

"The strike was observed

automatically. People generally stayed home... except for senior government employees who feared being fired if absent," one said.

"To many the stoppage was an unscheduled holiday, no matter which party they supported or opposed," one official told Reuters.

Opposition leaders said Saturday's "total strike" once again demonstrated popular dislike of Mrs. Khaleda's government and demands for honest elections.

Mrs. Khaleda has refused to step aside. The next general election is not due before March 1996.

Police said no violence was reported from anywhere on the first day of the stoppage, although small groups of activists marched and chanted, telling people to stay home.

A few trains left: the city stations but were stopped by pickets on the way but buses and trucks did not operate. Airline officials said most domestic flights would be cancelled and international flights delayed.

Chittagong, the main Bangladesh port, was closed but operations were normal

in the port of Chalna, port officials said. The Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Foreign Exchange Markets were closed, traders said.

Opposition parties led by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina have staged a series of general strikes since they resigned from parliament last December, including a 72-hour national stoppage in September.

Mrs. Hasina told reporters Friday she might call for a non-stop shutdown or siege of the prime minister's office if Mrs. Khaleda did not accept the opposition demands before or during a 96-hour strike due to begin on Oct. 16.

"She (Khaleda) has compelled us to take the rough course... and if necessary we will call for a non-stop agitation," Mrs. Hasina said.

The opposition wants Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what were billed as Bangladesh's first free polls, to step down immediately and allow election supervised by a neutral caretaker administration.

They charge elections with Mrs. Khaleda in power could not be free and fair.

**Living New
blenders make
onto stamp
series**

LINGTON (AP) —
the first time in philatelic history here living Zealanders have hated it onto postage stamps. New Zealand's executive minister has announced that the first time pictures of people other than the family would appear on country's postage stamps. Among the suggestions are still very alive opera diva Kiri Te Kanawa, former cricketer Sir Richard Hadlee, novelist Barry Crummey and retired heart surgeon Sir Bernard Rees. Two other faces in series belong to double Olympic cross-countryer Les Uplham who died last year and Maori leader Eru Whina Cooper who two years ago became the first woman to lead a protest against nuclear testing by her husband and Hillary, but he has denied the miles once becoming the only New Zealander to appear on currency — his rugged face on the five-dollar bill issued in 1970 says the New Zealand post office said it had made about 2 million stamps about 20 months ago appeared, but after death.

**It's official:
chemistry lectures
are boring**

NDOH (NPP) — A student has come up with a list of something students have known for years: chemistry lectures are boring. In an article published in the current issue of *Chemistry in America*, a university chemistry lecturer finished his last lecture to a class of doctoral candidates, he and his colleagues listed variations in which he called the 11111R (address to the "American Chemist") after 50 years in the average 1111R speed from 125 to 125 (meters) (21.25 to 12.5 metres) (550 to 300 miles) the author of the article, who preferred to remain anonymous. The 111R nomenclature was traced back to normal in the speaker's mind, "magic word," and no "clustering."

Museum pays \$2.1 million to save paintings for China

BJING (R) — China's National Museum has paid out 18 million yuan (\$2.7 million) to save a 14th-century painting from a private collector. The national museum said the transaction officially sealed the end of the era when private collectors, the only source of antiquities for northern China, rarely paid more than 10 percent of any Xian dynasty (220-265 A.D.) or 600 years' worth of Chinese art in the collection. The museum's purchase of the painting's emperors for some 100,000 yuan, an official of the National Art Academy said. The price was paid for the painting and for the cost of restoring it at the museum. The work first appeared in June at an auction in Beijing, having been purchased by a private collector a few years earlier. It is one of the 100,000 items of Chinese art that Emperor Tu Yuzhen, the first emperor of the Ming dynasty, gave to his son, Yang Xun, vice president of the Palace Museum, in 1912. The painting was housed in the former home of the emperor's family.

China's emperor, who reigned from 1368 to 1398, died at the age of 60 and left behind a collection of 100,000 items, valued at \$700,000,000. The emperor's collection was divided into 10 categories. After 25 years in the emperor's collection, Yang bought the painting for 18 million yuan. "We planned to buy it," Yang told the Associated Press. The painting was sold to the National News Agency for 18 million yuan. The agency then sold it to the museum. "We decided to buy it," Yang said. "We decided to buy it for a higher price than the other bidders." The museum was responsible for the painting's public outcry for the painting. The painting was painted in 1368, and it was the first painting to be painted for the emperor. The painting was painted for the emperor's son, Yang Xun, vice president of the Palace Museum, in 1912. The painting was housed in the former home of the emperor's family.

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French soldiers stand guard as rebel Comorian soldiers leave the Moroni Airport where they were kept overnight after having surrendered along with French mercenary leader Bob Denard and his men. French troops released 450

Comorian rebels who joined the mercenaries in the Sept. 28 coup in the eastern African island. The soldiers are covered by an amnesty while the mercenaries left on their own after handing back their uniforms (AFP photo)

Italy revives old idea of broader NATO links around Mediterranean

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia (AP) — Italy is using NATO's Partnership for Peace in Central Europe to revive an old idea of bringing the countries of the Mediterranean's eastern and southern coasts closer to their richer European cousins.

The last Italian Mediterranean initiative, without the NATO umbrella, was in 1990 as Western forces massed in Saudi Arabia to repel Iraqi army from Kuwait.

Middle Eastern politics killed it then. Some Arabs were livid that Italy excluded Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from a meeting on the Gulf crisis. Others would have boycotted had he been there.

In proposing his "partnership for the Mediterranean," Gen. Domenico Corcione, Italy's defence minister, stated the obvious: "I am aware that such an initiative is easier to be thought and said than implemented."

Gen. Corcione outlined his idea to his North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) colleagues at meetings ending Friday in this restored capital of 18th-century Virginia. The ministers discussed the Corcione proposal in a private session

Thursday, but the Italians distributed his speech.

The key difference in his proposal and the two-year-old Partnership for Peace is that none of the Middle Eastern and North African countries would enter expecting to become regular NATO members. NATO has said Poland, Hungary and other Central European partnership countries could be elevated to membership as soon as they meet Western requirements.

Several countries that would qualify for the Mediterranean extension already are in the European model, including Slovenia, Albania and Malta.

As envisioned by Gen. Corcoran, the Mediterranean partnership would emphasise security and military cooperation, omitting the political aspect of the European alliance.

"An initiative of this kind, promoted by a collective security organisation such as NATO, would... have a highly symbolic value: The Mediterranean Sea as a bridge rather than a barrier," the Italian defence minister said.

He conceded deep differ-

ences between the former Soviet Bloc countries of Central Europe, eager to strengthen their new democratic and free-market systems, and most countries that would be covered by the Italian initiative.

These proposed partners, he said, are "diverse by traditions, cultural values, political systems, and traditionally suspicious if not hostile towards the Western world."

But with patience and wisdom the differences could be overcome, Gen. Corcione said.

"Prospects for an increased security in the wider Mediterranean theatre lie between a comprehensive cooperative approach on one hand and a politically strong and militarily effective European and trans-Atlantic alliance on the other," he said.

Italian officials said the ministers received the proposal favourably, but it appeared not to have been a major topic. Walter Slocombe, U.S. undersecretary of defence for policy, said he mentioned it only "for the sake of completeness" in briefing reporters on the discussions.

Shuttle launch postponed again

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A last-minute computer failure forced NASA to cancel Saturday's launch of the U.S. space shuttle Columbia, the fourth delay in just over a week.

One of two computers needed to process critical commands for Columbia's solid-fuel rocket boosters and

fuel tank would not work. Launch officials held the countdown at the 20-minute mark while hurriedly putting together a repair plan.

But nothing worked, and engineers recommended the mission be put off.

"We did our best today," NASA test director John Guildi told the seven astro-

The flight was not immediately rescheduled. Launch director James Harrington said he expected a delay of at least two days — possibly longer.

Captive Comoros coup leader Denard returns to France

PARIS (R) — Veteran French mercenary Bob Denard, whose coup attempt in the Comoro Islands was crushed by French troops, was flown home Saturday to face justice.

Escorted by French gendarmes, he landed at Villacoublay Air Base outside Paris at dawn aboard an air force C-160 transport plane and was immediately taken to the law courts, military sources said.

Judicial sources said he would face investigating Magistrate Chantal Perdrix and be jailed at Paris La Sainte Prison.

Judge Perdrix had issued an international arrest warrant for the 66-year-old soldier of fortune after his latest bid for power in the former French colony he once ruled as a fiefdom.

charges he violated terms of a five-year suspended jail term that barred him from leaving France.

Mr. Denard also faces trial, at the request of the Comoros government, over the murder in 1989 of President Ahmad Abdallah, whose presidential guard he commanded.

The latest coup was the third time Mr. Denard had overthrown the Comoros government in 20 years. The five-year-sentence against him was for a 1977 invasion of the West African state of Benin.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said Friday that the 30,000 other white mercenaries who followed Mr. Denard in the coup had been handed over to the Comoran gendarmes.

Mr. Denard had been the uncrowned king of the Comoros Islands for 12 years until he fled to South Africa in 1989 after a bloodless French intervention. In his first Comoran coup, Mr. Denard overthrew President Ali Soilih in May, 1978.

Mr. Denard, who has Comoran nationality, a Comoran wife and is a convert to Islam, began his career as a mercenary in 1961 after working in France as a demonstrator of kitchen appliances.

Meanwhile, Comoros President Said Mohammed Djohar, taken to the French Reunion Island to rest after a failed coup, said Saturday he felt he had been deported and wanted to go home.

Mr. Djohar, who was held captive by Mr. Denard in Moroni for a week until

am in exile or if I have been deported," he said. "I want to go home as soon as possible."

Mr. Djohar, who looked perfectly healthy, left hospital on Friday and was taken to a spa in the centre of the island.

The French Foreign Ministry has said Mr. Djohar was resting from his ordeal as "guest of French authorities" and would not say how long he would remain on La Reunion.

Prime Minister Casimir Elyachrouh, who took refuge at the French embassy during the coup and formed a government of national unity, in Mr. Djohar's absence, remained in power as interim president.

Mr. Djohar's statements that he had not wanted to be flown out of the Cameroons

Mr. Denard was taken to Mayotte, a French island in the Comoros group, shortly after he surrendered to a 1,000-strong French force Thursday after a week-long coup. Later he was flown on to Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

They were being questioned to establish their identities and individual responsibilities in the coup. What would happen to them was not clear, but French diplomatic sources said one possibility was that they could be expelled.

"I did not want to come to La Reunion, but I had no choice," he told Reuters in an interview.

His overthrow was greeted with popular rejoicing in Moroni, although the demonstrators protested against the mercenaries' invasion.



Comorian President Said Mohammad Djohar (2nd right) leaves the Bellepierre Hospital at Saint Denis, the French territory in the Indian Ocean, after a check-up following a week's captivity in the hands of putschists on the Comoros (AFP photo)

NATO chief pressured after corruption report

BRUSSELS (R) — "The future of Willy Claes as top man at NATO was in doubt Saturday after a Belgian court said it would recommend he be charged with corruption.

"The bell tolls for Willy Claes," said the headline in Saturday's *La Libre Belgique*, one of Belgium's main French-language newspapers.

"If he is really concerned about NATO's image... he resigns voluntarily now," wrote one columnist in *De Gazet Van Antwerpen*, a Dutch-language daily.

"Claes should step down," wrote *Het Laatste Nieuws*. "Is there someone who can make him understand this?"

Mr. Claes, on a trip to the United States, denied any wrongdoing following reports that Belgium's highest Constitutional Court would recommend to parliament next week that he face charges

relating to a bribery scandal. He said he saw no reason to resign as secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). "I am totally innocent, I have never done anything wrong," Mr. Claes told a news conference following a two-day meeting of NATO defence ministers in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Belgium's top court, the Cour De Cassation, is to recommend to parliament next week that it lift Mr. Claes's immunity, gained when he was a minister, and charge him with corruption and fraud, according to leaks reported widely in Belgium's media.

Former Defence Minister Guy Coemse also faced corruption and forgery charges in a similar case.

The accusations centre on investigations into alleged payments of kickbacks to Belgian Socialist politicians

by Italian helicopter firm Agusta which was seeking to win a contract in 1988.

Mr. Claes was economics minister at the time. He later became foreign minister, before being appointed to NATO last year.

Four Belgian ministers have resigned since January 1994 as a result of the investigation into the Agusta affair. The Italian firm has denied paying kickbacks.

Mr. Claes's tenure at NATO has been dogged by the accusations since the scandal broke some eight months, although he received the key backing of U.S. President Bill Clinton early on.

They slipped into the background at NATO, although not in Belgian politics, as the alliance beefed up its role in former Yugoslavia, conducting a massive bombing campaign to shift Bosnia Serb forces from around Sarajevo.

The Belgian ex-minister stepped into the spotlight at NATO as the military campaign heated up, not always to the satisfaction of NATO members and military officials.

He infuriated members of the U.S. Congress last week by refusing to attend the autumn meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly, the alliance's parliamentary arm, in Turin, Italy on Monday. He later changed his mind and will now attend.

On Saturday Mr. Claes was to attend a meeting of the Atlantic Treaty Association in Toronto, Canada.

The Belgian court's report will be handed to a special parliamentary commission Monday. The panel is expected to decide on procedure Tuesday.

Any vote on charges against Mr. Claes would come later.

Vranitzky tries to avert government fall

VIENNA (R) — Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said Saturday he would do everything in his power to prevent his coalition from falling because of a budget battle that has plunged Austria into one of its worst crises since 1945.

Mr. Vranitzky said he saw no reason for the government to dissolve over the budget fight and called on his junior coalition partners, the conservative People's Party (OeVP), to return to the negotiating table.

Mr. Vranitzky told a news conference he had talked to Vice Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel of the OeVP on the telephone earlier Saturday. There could be further negotiations with the OeVP, possibly Sunday.

Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats (SPOE) and the OeVP, which have shared power since 1980, came close

to a split that would prompt early elections after last-ditch talks to agree on cuts in the country's huge budget deficit broke down Friday.

"We do not want the coalition to fall apart and I will undertake every effort to keep this government in office," Mr. Vranitzky said. "We want to continue talking until we reach a deal. Early elections would not be in the nation's interest."

President Thomas Klestil urged the two sides to resume negotiations and warned that the vast majority of Austrian voters were opposed to new elections three years ahead of schedule.

"I expect that despite their differences the two sides will succeed to produce a budget plan on time," Mr. Klestil said. "I will continue my efforts to help facilitate an agreement."

The government has been struggling to agree on a plan to trim the deficit and put the country on track for membership in the European Union's proposed economic and monetary union.

The government aims to cut the 1996 budget deficit to 92.8 billion schillings (\$9 billion) from a projected 102.3 billion (\$10 billion) in 1995. Recent figures showed the deficit to be nearly 50 billion (\$5 billion) over target. The OEVF opposes tax increases while the SPOE favours higher taxes.

Mr. Schuessel said the talks had failed Friday night. He said that the OEVF could not accept a budget filled with "accounting tricks."

"I am the last one who wants new elections," Mr. Schuessel said in a speech Saturday.

The failed command sequence called a master events controller — is needed to process commands for igniting the two boosters at liftoff. It also controls separation of the spent boosters two minutes into the flight and the fuel tank six minutes after that.

NASA had feared rain might delay the scheduled 9:41 a.m. (1314 GMT) liftoff.

In fact, the weather turned out perfect, but there were other last-minute problems. Birds at the launch pad and nitrogen fluctuations in an orbital maneuvering system.

NASA had to sound a siren several times to scare away the birds. Launch officials were taking no chances. Woodpeckers damaged the external fuel tank of *Discovery* earlier this year, forcing a long, costly delay for that.

Alliance to oppose Kashmir elections

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A group of more than 30 political separatist groups in Kashmir, the all party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, will oppose any plans for elections in Jammu and Kashmir state, acting President Syed Ali Shah Gilani said Saturday.

"Elections will not bring any solutions," Mr. Gilani told reporters.

"Hurriyat will educate the people that elections will not help us," he said. "We will not participate in any election that the Indian government may announce."

Indian government officials have been meeting leaders of state and national political parties to explore ways to hold elections in the troubled north Indian state.

Dozens of militant groups are fighting Delhi's rule of Jammu and Kashmir, largely-Hindu India's only Muslim majority state.

Police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have been killed since the rebellion erupted in January 1990.

At present the state is under federal rule, the tenure of which expires in January next year.

"We want the right to self-determination based on the United Nations resolution," Mr. Gilani said. "We will like

to have tripartite talks between India, Pakistan and the legitimate representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir (Hurriyat)." Mr. Gilani said.

Meanwhile, Indian officials said Saturday they had not heard from the kidnappers of four Western tourists in Kashmir for 18 days but they remained optimistic about finding a peaceful solution.

"There is no news on the hostages," a spokesman for the Jammu and Kashmir government told reporters.

Indian negotiators last spoke to the abductors, guerrillas of the Al Faran group, on Sept. 19.

"We are hopeful (that the hostages would be set free)," the spokesman said.

American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells began their fourth month in captivity this week in the Himalayan region, where they were abducted while trekking.

Al Faran has demanded the release of several jailed militants in return for the hostages. India has ruled out a direct swap, but said some militants might be freed as part of a routine administrative review.

The kidnappers were believed to be moving from place to place in the Hima-

layan region with the hostages. The spokesman could not say if there was a possibility of the hostages being released as winter approaches in the region. Kashmir faces a treacherous winter with temperatures dropping below freezing point.

A police official said Friday the health of the hostages was deteriorating because of extremely cold, unhygienic conditions, a restricted diet and psychological pressure.

Dozens of militant groups are fighting Delhi's rule of Jammu and Kashmir.

Authorities have ruled out a raid to rescue the tourists, fearing that this could threaten the hostages. One, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe, was found beheaded on Aug. 13.

But with the help of locals including shepherds, they have been able to keep close track of the kidnappers and the hostages.

The police official said the militants were holding the captives in the village of Afti in the southern part of the state, at an altitude of about 4,000 metres (13,000 feet).

Last week authorities said Al Faran had sought medical aid for the hostages. They added at least one captive was believed to be suffering from snow blindness.

These things don't replace the care and the preparation that have gone into getting the vehicle ready to fly," said shuttle operations director Bob Sieck. "But that all gets erased whenever you finally get off the ground."

Once the 16-day mission begins, the astronauts will grow protein and semiconductor crystals, study fluids, set controlled fires and tend to potato plants. More than \$100 million worth of experiments are aboard Columbia.

It was to be the first flight in more than a year for Columbia, the U.S. space agency's oldest shuttle. The spaceship was sidelined for routine maintenance.

The countdown for launch attempt No. 3 was halted just hours before liftoff Friday when pressure dropped in the hydraulic line that operates Columbia's nose-wheel steering. The line was found to be a gallon (about 4 litres) low on hydraulic fluid.

Workers apparently left a valve open while repairing a dangerous hydrogen fuel leak last weekend, allowing hydraulic fluid to drain out. The valve was on ground equipment hooked to Columbia.

Mr. Sieck said the workers had followed standard repair procedures but that the rules were meant for shuttle in the horizontal position.

Pope holds mass on New York race track

NEW YORK (AP) — Pope John Paul II took his American pilgrimage to a huge racetrack in New York City Friday, declaring that affluent, high-tech society must not lose sight of its poor and ignore traditional family values.

Speaking from an altar flanked by the Aqueduct Racetrack's tote boards, the Pope warned a cheering crowd of 75,000 people not to shut out "the mystery of God."

Despite America's reputation of power and wealth, he said, "not everyone here is powerful. Not everyone here is rich."

"In fact," Pope John Paul said, "America's sometimes extravagant affluence often conceals much hardship and poverty."

Having often decried the corruption of modern society in general, the Pope said the "magnificent scientific and technological civilisation of which America is proud" must not ignore religion and family values.

"Society must strongly reaffirm the right of the child to grow up in a family in which, as far as possible, both parents are present," he said.

The helicopter carrying the Pontiff from Manhattan landed on the infield of the track in the Borough of Queens.

where thousands had been waiting for hours. One 62-year-old woman entering the racetrack just before sunrise suffered a fatal heart attack.

After a day of rain, the sun broke through.

"Good morning," Pope John Paul said. "Yesterday evening, very strong rain. Today, very strong wind and sun," he added, his white robes flapping in the strong gusts.

The Pope spoke in English and Spanish and said a few words in his native Polish.

Thousands listened intently, many carrying their own special prayers.


"I lost my father a month ago and I wanted to come here and pray for him," said Kate Gayron.

The faithful wept and cheered Thursday night, braving hours of driving rain during mass in a football stadium.

The Pope, on a five-day visit to the United States, invoked poet Emma Lazarus' plea for America to embrace its huddled masses. He also condemned abortion, euthanasia, limits on immigration and severe cutbacks in social services.

"I cannot describe how exuberant and exhilarated I feel at this moment," 68-year-old Ada Tronolone said after the mass at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"Seeing John Paul II was



Pope John Paul.

a personal experience in a crowd of more than 80,000. He makes you feel like he's talking just to you."

At the stadium, some pressed their hands to their hearts or cried in Spanish "Viva el Papa" as the Pontiff circled the stadium in his Popemobile.

"I see that the people of New Jersey know how to praise God, even in the rain," the Pope told the crowd of 82,498, the largest ever at Giants Stadium.

The Pontiff urged worshippers to continue

America's tradition of civil rights. He criticised current trends opposing immigration and aid to the poor.

"Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not," the Pope said.

"If America were to turn on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the 'American experience'?"

Earlier Thursday, the Pope urged the United Nations to be an authentic force for peace.

The Pope's address to the 185-nation organisation during its 50th anniversary was the central point of his fourth pilgrimage to the United States.

He sketched the dramatic changes since he last addressed the assembly in 1979 — the fall of communism and cuts in nuclear arsenals.

Today's world, he said, faces grave dangers stemming from a "narrow and exclusive nationalism," which triggered "a true nightmare of violence and terror," most recently during ethnic upheavals in Rwanda and Bosnia.

"Nationalism, particularly in its most radical forms, is true the antithesis of true patriotism," he said.

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Humanitarianism calling

THERE IS an ongoing Review Conference in Vienna on the 1980 U.N. Weapons Convention that prohibited or restricted certain conventional arms which are excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effect. The conference is targeting land-mines and blinding laser guns after its group of experts has made specific recommendations on these two types of weapons by, first, calling for additional safeguards and restrictions on the deployment of booby-traps and anti-personnel mines and, second, recommending a total ban on the use or manufacture of blinding laser arsenals.

But before even examining the merits or shortcomings of the recommendations put before the Review Conference, we need to address the lack of Arab support for the 1980 convention. Among the 50 states which have become parties to the "old" treaty, only one Arab country is a state party, namely Tunisia. We of course are proud of Tunisia's membership in this select club but cannot be proud of the record of the rest of the Arab World on this issue. What adds insult to injury to this dismal Arab record on international humanitarian law is the fact that Israel has opted to ratify the 1980 treaty in March of this year at a time when there is no sign that Arab states are even contemplating any such ratification. This is happening despite the fact that Islam has one of the most progressive and human principles on warfare.

It would seem odd that the Arab states would choose to shun the 1980 convention at a time when Islam and Arab culture stand out as most humanitarian when it comes to engaging in warfare. This is not to suggest that ratifying treaties on humanitarian law is an end in itself. Many countries which are party to such treaties are also among the most notorious violators of the law. The best evidence of this is the reluctance of the current conference in Vienna to adopt effective amendments to the 1980 convention that would make the deployment of land-mines even more restrictive.

Fortunately, though, the group of experts which laid the groundwork for the conference did recommend a total ban on the manufacture or use of laser weapons which may blind combatants. Israel is the only known Middle Eastern country which has a military programme to develop laser weaponry. If Israel, which is a state party to the 1980 convention, votes against this recommendation it would be proof that its belated ratification is only a gimmick or public relations gesture at best. Meanwhile we can only remind the Arab World that it lags way behind in adherence to the norms of humanitarian law and the best way to remedy this situation is to ratify the 1980 convention and support the strongest possible amendments to it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

REFLECTING ON the newly signed Taba agreement between the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and Israel, Al-Dustour Arabic daily said the deal had reflected positively on the PNA and enhanced its credibility. The Taba deal, said the paper, is a cause for satisfaction and a source of optimism because it secured the gradual release of Palestinian prisoners, the redeployment of Israeli forces and their withdrawal from Arab towns; and it also paved the way for holding the long-delayed Palestinian elections. It peace seekers will remain anxious and concerned over a situation until Israel implemented all the provisions of the agreement and honoured the pledges it made before the world. What causes concern at present is the large number of Israeli knesset members who voted against the deal and the Israeli president's announcement Friday that not all Palestinian women prisoners would be set free. Unless Israel carries out all the provisions of the Taba deal, the optimism created at the signing ceremony in Washington will start to wane away, the paper concluded.

COLUMNIST in Al-Rai daily criticised what he called a bid in Royal Jordanian (RJ) to employ foreign hostesses. At least 50 per cent of the stewardesses employed on board airlines are non-Jordanian, something that violates the Law of Labour rules on the employment of non-Jordanians. Nazih said. Royal Jordanian, which reaches different parts of the world, ought to be Jordan's ambassador, reflecting the country's image and embodying the national character and hospitality of Jordan, said the writer. There is no justification for closing the door before Jordanians wishing to serve on board RJ planes. Especially as increasing numbers of them wish to join the airline's staff and wish to get training for this occupation, continued the writer.

Intellectual property rights and you!

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

THE FIRST Arab International Conference on Property Rights which convened in Amman between September 27-30th, 1995, ended with many participants in a state of apprehension about the future of Arab trade.

Speculation and misinformation about the impact of intellectual property rights recognition has already surfaced in the media to confound an already confused public. However, this conference which was based on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, an important element in the construct of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) protocol, needs to be the concern of everyone in Jordan. The WTO, the successor of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), counts many Arab countries, such as Egypt, among its 106 members. Many others, like Jordan, are planning to join it in the near future.

Of all the different agreements of WTO/GATT, none will have an effect as strong or as immediate on the Jordanian economy as that of the WTO agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). This agreement will strongly impact all aspects of life in Jordan because presently intellectual property rights are not recognised, neither at the institutional level nor at the individual level. In light of the recent conference and the justifiable increase in public interest over this specific agreement, the following outlines the main elements of the agreement and the impact they will have on Jordan.

TRIPS recognises that the standards and practices protecting intellectual property rights differ greatly from country to country. It also recognises the costly infringements of copyrights tolerated in developing countries.

Cognisant of these factors, TRIPS provides uniform protection of: The respect of the basic principles of GATT 1994; the provision of internationally recognised standards and measures that are necessary for the protection of intellectual property on a global basis; the provision of the necessary means to protect intellectual property rights through dispute settlement mechanisms, negotiations and commitments by member nations; and the provision of transitional arrangements necessary for a country's full application to

this agreement.

The following are the main elements of TRIPS:

1) To fulfill the requirements of this agreement, no member need offer more protection for intellectual property than is required by this agreement. However, member nations are free to extend more protection to intellectual property than specified here.

2) Members recognise the substantive obligations of the main international conventions on intellectual property rights — namely the Paris Convention 1967, the Berne Convention 1971, the Rome Convention 1961 and the Washington Convention 1989.

3) Each nation belonging to WTO (member nation) will treat the intellectual property rights of citizens of other member nations at least the same as it treats the intellectual property rights of its own citizens. This is the famous National-Treatment Article of GATT 1994.

4) Any advantage that a member nation extends to citizens of another member nation must normally be extended to the citizens of all other members; i.e. no discrimination among members in the respect of intellectual property. This article is basically the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Article of GATT 1994.

5) Copyrights: — The way ideas are presented or packaged and the procedures used in presenting the information is protected.

Jordanian university professors and authors in general will benefit financially from this article in terms of seeing their works protected and thus receiving more royalties from their intellectual endeavours. Also, this protection will encourage creativity and originality and the specialisation of researchers. One obstacle to specialisation has been the dearth of the financial rewards which has forced many of our scholars to pander their services in a plethora of streams, thereby squandering those precious abilities obtained in specialised training. On the other hand, consumers will no longer have the freedom to photocopy entire texts, publishers will have to pay royalties on copies of original works, and all acts of intellectual theft will have to cease. Thus, difficult, exceptional and original work will be rewarded at last. As a direct result of this agree-

ment, quality will improve in all our sectors especially the secondary (manufacturing) and tertiary (services) sectors which utilise intellectual property more than the primary sector (agriculture and mining).

— Protection of computer programmes: The arrangement of information in a certain way (the packaging of information) is protected. Note that the information itself is not protected. This applies to all software and indicates that the law can prosecute the user of pirated copies of copy-right protected software. This problem is primary to developing countries and affects to a lesser extent the developed countries. In Jordan, the demise of stores that legally sell pirated software becomes imminent with the signing of the WTO. Furthermore, corporations that have used pirated software will have to buy originals or chance being persecuted by the law. And while it is true, as has been pointed in the Arabic press, that this would increase the cost of production, it will also improve the quality of the output itself as people receive the proper training and support from the distributor of the original software and clear original manuals which, to any of us who have tried to learn a software on their own, is a true time saver.

— Actors are protected from reproduction, unauthorised recording, or unauthorised broadcast of live performances for 50 years. Our actors, who have resorted to performing in plays that are not reproducible without their explicit permission, will finally start to reap the benefits of their hard labour. Our cinema industry and that of other Arab countries will gain for its members the respect they deserve and financial rewards that are long overdue.

— Producers of sound recordings have the right to

prevent the reproduction of recordings for 50 years. Singers will benefit from this article, while merchants that sell pirated tapes will be forced to go under or to become truly legitimate by selling originals. The same argument as in the case of the video tapes applies here.

— Broadcast stations have a 20-year protection from unauthorised reproduction of live performances. As stations become privatised their live recordings will become a valuable source of income.

6) Trademarks: Any sign or mark or group of marks used to indicate a product or a service is protected for seven years, after which it has to be re-registered for another period of seven years. However, if a person registers a trademark and does not use it for three years, the trademark is forfeited.

Consumers will possibly pay higher prices but as their incomes rise, this may be amply compensated

— Rental rights: Movies and computer programmes can be rented with the permission of the owner. Copying is prohibited unless with explicit permission or license from the owner. Video stores will need to change their rental policies because they will have to obtain the consent of the video tape owners in order to rent their tapes. The rental fees need not increase; however, judging from past trends they probably will. Video stores should contact the large video companies early to eliminate the cost of middleman commissions. Additionally, stores should ask customers for a deposit from which late return fines and loss or damage of tapes are applied. In the U.S., consumers are made to pay a daily fine for not returning tapes on time. No store in Jordan has to yet enforce this

rule because pirated copies are cheap and the cost of duplication barely exceeds the cost of the bare tape. However, as the cost of the tape rises, the revenue and profit of the store will be determined by the number of times the tape is rented in the shortest period of time.

Movie theatres will see their business boom as pirated copies dwindle away and the theatre again becomes the first place you go to see new releases and not the video store, as is the case in Jordan.

Definite quality improvement, possible cost increase to the store and the consumer, and increased revenue from customs duties to the government will result from TRIPS.

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7) Geographical indications are marks or signs which are put on the commodity to indicate the region or country of origin.

Members must provide the means to prevent misleading consumers as to the origin of the goods through false geographical indications. High levels of protection are offered for wines and spirits. Generic products are not protected generally and any country that is using an exception for their protection must be willing to negotiate its removal. The practice of cheating consumers by telling them that a product is Italian when it was made in Amman will be punishable by law. Good!

8) Industrial designs that are original or new are protected for a period of 10 years. Any duplication or inclusion of these designs in any product is prohibited for this period without explicit permission from the owner.

9) Patents of new inventions whether products or processes that can be applied industrially and contain new ideas or development are protected for 20 years. Exclusions apply to inventions that are used for the diagnosis, treatment or surgery of humans or animals and inventions that offend public morals. Developing countries which at present have no product patent protection in a technical area are given 10 years to introduce such protection.

10) Layout designs of integrated circuits are protected for a minimum period of 10 years. This right extends to any article which incorporates infringing layout designs. The designer may postpone their registration for 15 years if the government does not require registration of the design.

11) Protection of trade secrets and know-how. The government must not disclose any information relating to intellectual property which has commercial value. Test data submitted regarding the safety or marketing of products to the government is also protected under this agreement. Secrets about products can no longer be disclosed by civil servants. One can sue the establishment which authorised such disclosure and the employee will end up in jail. Welcome professionalism.

12) Anti-competitive practices in contractual licenses: Members have the right to take measures in this area to limit monopoly practices in the provision of intellectual property rights. Although

copyrights give monopoly power to their owners, the accumulation of patents and their usage for the sole purpose of hurting competition is considered anti-competitive. The word is still out on this in the economic profession. However, awareness of its significance by the government and the business sector will prove to be a long-run bonanza to all.

13) Member governments are to provide procedures in their domestic law to effectively enforce intellectual property rights.

14) Transition arrangements:

— Developed countries have one year to bring their legislation and practices into conformity with this agreement.

— Developing countries, such as Jordan, and transitional economies have five years to bring their legislation and practices into conformity with this agreement.

— Least developed countries have 11 years to bring their legislation and practices into conformity with this agreement.

15) A council for Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights monitors the compliance of governments with the agreement and the application of it.

As with all of the WTO agreements, producers will benefit and their incomes will rise. Consumers will possibly pay higher prices but as their incomes rise, this may be amply compensated. Quality and creativity in Jordan will improve as the rewards increase. Those of us involved in research will further focus their efforts and specialisation, that main ingredient for growth. Hi-tech foreign investors will see in Jordan a safer investment environment than before, and with their entry we will see a stronger long-run economy. Furthermore, our moral fiber will improve and become enhanced as we step away from stealing what is not rightfully ours and move toward making our own industrial destiny. The argument for the theft of intellectual property is immoral and fallacious because it suggests anarchy and lawlessness and is based on bad economics. Those who condone such theft are possibly using the following argument: The price of the original is so high relative to our income that it is imperative we steal it. I, in turn ask: Doesn't this logic apply to anything? Doesn't this logic permit one to steal his neighbour's car, simply because he cannot afford it?

Political divorce, economic marriage; next steps in Middle East peace

By Leonard Hausman and Robert Lawrence

ISRAEL and the PLO largely have effected a political divorce. This follows Jordan's abandonment in 1988 of its claim to the West Bank. With the recent agreement with the PLO, Israel has taken a giant step towards completely renouncing its claim to the West Bank, acknowledging thereby an expanded — and increasingly irreversible — experiment in Palestinian nation-building.

In the words of Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, political divorce should be accompanied by economic marriage. As the Triad (Israel, Jordan, and the emerging Palestine) engaged over a period of years in political divorce, they now should unite in economic marriage — through a "customs union." Free trade should be achieved among the Triad through a comprehensive approach. Thus far, however, the trade measures have been piecemeal and inadequate.

Much needs to be done. The effort to create a Palestinian state can succeed only if the agricultural and manufactured products of the emerging entity have access to its neighbouring markets, both in Israel and in other Arab states. This is particularly the case, since Palestinian workers who earned almost a fourth of their national income in Israel, have now been restricted from working there. Since 1967, the Arab boycott of Israel has meant a boycott of Palestinian products. These barriers must also now be eliminated.

In 1994 Israel and the PLO signed an accord which moved in the right direction. It provided for virtually immediate free

trade between the two parties, except in agriculture, where free trade is phased in over four years. The accord also established extensive Palestinian economic sovereignty, such as the power to tax and operate capital markets.

The problem with the 1994 agreement is that its implementation has been hampered severely by Israel's concern with security, arising from terrorism, a serious problem on which Israeli farm interests took a ride. Until now, the combination of security concerns and the farm lobby has presented a formidable obstacle to effective free trade — and, thus, Palestinian economic development. In their most recent agreement, Israel and the PLO seem committed to finding new ways to make trucks carry Palestinian produce and manufacture goods across the line between the West Bank and Israel without there being any bombs aboard.

A trade agreement between Jordan and Israel is pending. Rather than implementing free trade it will contain a few areas of preference but for the most part simply require each party to treat the other no worse than it treats its other trading partners. It is a giant historical leap for Israel and Jordan to grant each other such most favoured nation treatment, but by making only token preferential concessions to each other they are losing a golden opportunity to make a more meaningful commitment to achieving free trade.

Jordan and the PLO have also given each other token preferences, but the agreement too has faced implementation problems because of opposition to free trade with Palestine from Jordanian interest groups.

Instead of proceeding with these separate bilateral agreements between each other, the Triad should join in a single agreement to bring free trade to the Middle East.

Here is how it ought to be done: Over a five-year period, all trade barriers between the West Bank and Gaza should be eliminated; all barriers to Jordanian goods entering Israel should be removed; and Jordan should grant Israeli concessionary tariffs on selected goods. By 2010, all barriers on Israeli exports to Jordan should be lifted, and Jordan's external tariffs should be harmonised with those of Israel and the Palestinian entity. At the same time, the Triad should enter into arrangements with other nations, particularly in the West, willing to make similar commitments to free trade.

As the emerging Palestine, Israel, and Jordan succeed in their economic marriage, they should bring in the relatives; those in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria. Such an accord would benefit everyone. Until today, industry in the West Bank and Gaza has functioned under extremely adverse conditions. Liberated of the constraints of occupation, and addressing security concerns constructively, industry only can improve in a climate of free trade.

Jordan's highest priorities are to reduce both its foreign trade deficit and its unemployment. The answer lies in boosting exports which, in turn, can be achieved today only if Jordan increases its share of the market in both the West Bank and Gaza and in Israel. Jordan traditionally has a controlled economy and continues to have high trade barriers. Since Jordan's adjustment problems are con-

siderably greater than those of its neighbours, it should be allowed a longer transition period before completely liberalising its trade with Israel.

The direct benefits to Israel's economy from free trade with its neighbours would be smaller both in absolute and relative terms. But the more dynamic economic and political benefits, could be considerable. A free trade agreement would also create pressures for further reform in Israel's agricultural sector and adjustment in the inefficient component of its labour intensive manufacturing sector.

Free trade would benefit the region as a whole. So far, none of the Triad economies have been particularly successful in attracting foreign investment. But the prospect of a sizeable, thriving region with open trade and diverse skill base could help create a new emerging marketplace that would bring much-needed foreign capital and investment to all of the partners.

A free trade accord thus would benefit all nations, reinforcing their leaders' commitment to peace — but most importantly, it would benefit the people themselves. They ultimately will decide whether burying their antagonisms has paid off, not only in ending war, but also in bringing prosperity for them and their children.

Leonard J. Hausman is the director of the Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Robert Z. Lawrence is the Albert L. Williams' Professor of International Trade Investment at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

LETTERS

Why reject humane deal?

To the Editor:

DURING THE past few days, there have been a number of press reports suggesting that Iraq, after more than five years of sanctions imposed by the U.N. as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, might decide to accept resolution 986 of the Security Council permitting it to sell limited quantities of oil totalling \$2 billion every six months for humanitarian purposes to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people that had reached to an extent that threaten complete generations.

As we know, resolution 986 was a modification to previous resolutions 706 and 712 that had allowed Iraq to export oil worth \$1.6 billion every six months.

The latest reports including statements by the Iraqi foreign and health ministers, as reported by the Jordan Times Oct. 5, indicate that Iraq is again in no mood to accept the said resolution on the grounds that it compromised Iraq's sovereignty. Even if we accept that, hasn't the Iraqi leadership since the Gulf war in early 1991 been accepting all kinds of resolutions that could well be considered as severely infringing on its sovereignty?

With simple calculations, we can estimate that the total amount of money that could have been generated by Iraq since the U.N. first adopted resolution 706 in 1991 and accounting for all the deductions to the U.N. Compensation Fund and other expenses of U.N. agencies in Iraq, would have been no less than \$10 billion. That certainly would have enabled any government to provide the necessary funds for food, medicine and other humanitarian needs that the Iraqis badly need.

No one can accept the logic behind the adamant position of the Iraqi government in pursuing such a policy that causes more hardship and suffering to its people.

Iraqi leaders have repeatedly admitted that sanctions had no bearing whatsoever on the ruling family and the close elite circles surrounding it. The damage is being concentrated upon the Iraqi people with heavy toll on the structure of the Iraqi society.

Hassan Andeh, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Peacemakers build bridges between Palestinians, Israelis

By Jeffrey Bartholet

PEOPLE WHO make peace in the Middle East are called a lot of things. "Traitor" and "dupe" are among the mildest. And as PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a landmark agreement at the White House last week, their opponents were naming the barbed-wire. The plan to withdraw Israeli troops from Palestinian towns and cities in the West Bank was too far-reaching for some — and far too little for others. Domsayers warned it would lead to the destruction of the Jewish state, or to the permanent denial of Palestinian rights. The peacemakers plodded forward. "Starting today," Mr. Rabin declared, his voice slow and determined, "an agreement on paper will be translated into reality on the ground."

But can Mideast peace ever be more than a piece of paper? As the next phase gets going — a six-month period of Israeli withdrawal followed by Palestinian elections — the two peoples will be rubbing up against each other as never before. The West Bank will be divided into three zones: One controlled by Israel, another by the Palestinians, and a third by security forces of both sides. Bombers and rioters will grab headlines. Quiet efforts to bridge gaps probably won't. If the slowly unfolding process is to succeed, however, the idea of "translating the agreement into reality" will have to attract a wider following. A look at four pairs of peacemakers reveals the promise — and the pitfalls — that lies ahead.

Hands across the table

Maj. Gen. Oren Shohar is a war veteran, a former intelligence officer, and, most recently, a top Israeli peace negotiator. His counterpart across the negotiating table

Fathers and sons

Yehuda Wachsman and Sheikh Yasin Hamed-Badr didn't smell the blood of their sons; but they felt the loss as deeply as any soldier.



Sheikh Abdo and Rabbi Milgrom

A year ago, Badr's son Abdul Karim was part of an armed squad from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) that kidnapped Wachsman's son, Nachshon, a 19-year-old corporal in the Israeli Army. The Hamas gunmen threatened to kill Nachshon if their demands for the release of Palestinian prisoners weren't met. Israeli soldiers stormed the hideout where Nachshon was held, but didn't reach him in time. Nachshon was killed, and so were his captors. Last month, at the invitation of a Palestinian journalist working for an Israeli newspaper, the two fathers met. "We shared sympathy for each other," says the sheik, who condemned his son's actions prior to the meeting. "I didn't expect him to be so nice, so gentle, so kind."

But why meet at all? Wachsman wanted to enlist Badr's support for a campaign to apply the death penalty to convicted killers, whether Palestinian or Israeli. (The two men agreed, on both Islamic and Jewish grounds, that murderers should face the gallows.) Wachsman also sought Badr's backing to establish a centre in Jerusalem to promote religious tolerance. Badr liked the idea, but added that he was only the owner of a kiosk that sells cigarettes and sweets in Jerusalem's Old City. Wachsman reminded Badr that the Prophet Muhammad was a merchant, and that Abraham was a simple shepherd. "Plain men can change the world," Wachsman says.

Good intentions aside, the relationship between the two fathers is already tainted by suspicion. After the kidnapping of Nachshon, Israeli security forces sealed the doors of Badr's apartment, forbidding him from using it — a common form of punishment for the families of terrorists. Badr wants Wachsman to persuade the government to reopen his apartment. "If he thinks he is



Badr and Wachsman

going to gain something personally because he met me, he is wrong," says Wachsman. He says his aims are "much, much broader."

Songs of Peace

Zehava Ben and Samir Joubran do more than talk: They make wonderful music together. She's a Jewish-Israeli singer whose family has roots in Morocco; he's an Arab Israeli from Nazareth who plays the oud, a stringed instrument that predates the lute. The two hope to perform a concert together in Gaza, where Ben has many Palestinian fans, to celebrate the latest peace agreement. "I'm not afraid," says the singer, 26. "The Palestinian police are involved, and so is the Mossad."

Ben's Gaza show will be in Arabic, including songs by the legendary Egyptian singer Om Kalthoum. Joubran, a 23-year-old Christian, has been helping her to improve her accent, and to master the quarter tones that are essential to Middle Eastern music. After several rehearsals, Joubran was pleased: "She started to really feel what she was singing — not to pretend to feel, but to really, feel."

Does politics ever intrude on their relationship? "When you meet someone who is talented, you can forget anything," says Joubran. "The most important thing in our relationship is music."

As an Israeli Arab, Joubran knows first-hand the difficulties of peacemaking. When she applied in 1991 to study at a prestigious college for music in Cairo, he was turned down — because he holds an Israeli passport. (Nearly two decades after Egypt and Israel made peace, Egyptian intellectuals still boycott the Jewish state.) One of Egypt's prominent conductors interceded on Joubran's behalf, and also arranged for him to perform at Cairo's opera house. But when Joubran suggested that the maestro

visit Israel, his response was hostile. The conductor is a Palestinian refugee from the 1948 war. "He said, 'Do you think I'm going to ask the Jewish people for a visa to visit my own home?'" Joubran recalls.

In Gaza, rumours about the Zehava Ben concert sent eager Palestinian fans scrambling to find tickets. "She can shake the ground you stand on," says 19-year-old Hamada Shorab, who once saw her sing while working as a cleaner in Tel Aviv. "She has a beautiful voice, better than some Arab singers." But the show still may not come off. Officials of the Palestinian Authority complain that Palestinian musicians from the West Bank don't have free access to Gaza due to rigid Israeli security measures, and that Gaza itself is like a prison, its borders tightly controlled by Israel. Why, they ask, should an Israeli musician get a special welcome? Joubran hopes the obstacles can be overcome. Arabs "should not look at Zehava as a Jew," he says. "Hear her voice, her music. She sings lovely music. Let's not see everything as political."

Rabbi and Sheikh

Most of the violence against the PLO-Israeli peace pact comes from zealots, Muslim and Jewish. But can religious figures also be a force for reconciliation? Sheikh Rajai Abdo and Rabbi Jeremy Milgrom think so. The two men met this year at one of many "interfaith" meetings that take place in Israel. Joined by a Palestinian priest, they later travelled to Sweden to address community groups on the peace process. On what do the rabbi and the sheik agree? "The oneness of the Almighty," says Abdo. He adds: "I've felt a very humanistic side to the Jewish people. Both peoples have experienced similar tragedy and shared the same

experience of diaspora."

Abdo feels a particular affinity for Sephardic Jews, who came to Israel from Arab countries. The Sephardim tend to be more right-wing than their counterparts from Europe, yet many still speak Arabic, eat Arab-style food and listen to Middle Eastern strains of music. "He who speaks Arabic is an Arab," he says. Yet Abdo, who spent 24 years in the United States, is a marginal personality among Palestinians. (Some Islamic figures have objected to his views and opposed his contacts with Israelis, but there's been "nothing threatening," he says.) And Milgrom, who grew up in California, concedes freely that he's considered naive and foolish by many fellow Israelis. Can such a dialogue really make a difference? "I don't want to seem presumptuous," says Milgrom, "but maybe we're ahead of our time."

Rabin himself predicts that it will take 10 to 30 years before peace between the two peoples becomes a reality. Progress, if it comes at all, will be measured in small increments. In Gaza, a popular Hamas band called the Martyrs opposes the Zehava Ben concert. "It's like a Jew coming to kill me with an Arab knife," says Nabil Al-Khatib, the band leader. But even Khatib recognises that times are changing. Whereas most of the Martyrs' music used to glorify attacks on Israelis, now such songs are only a small part of their repertoire. "It's peaceful in Gaza," he says. "I can't stand on the stage and sing only about stabbing the soldiers or killing the Israelis." That may not seem like much, but it counts for progress in a country where Arabs and Israelis alike have mostly pounded the drums of war.

Newsweek

Libya may reverse expulsions

(Continued from page 1)

Cairo, while respecting the air embargo imposed on Libya in 1992, has mediated for Libya with the United States and Britain, which accuse Tripoli of harbouring two suspects of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 died.

Egypt has also been a main passage of supplies to its embargoed neighbour since the flight ban was imposed on Tripoli.

Mr. Musa said Col. Qadhafi responded positively based on "Libya's Arab responsibility and the joint Arab role in preserving the status quo" in the various aspects of the Palestinian question until matters become clearer about its future.

Their talks focused "on a number of topics, including the Palestinian question, the Lockerbie crisis, and other matters of concern to Arab countries concerning Libya's position on these questions," he said.

Unnamed Palestinian sources told the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram that Mr. Musa's visit to Libya "represented a breakthrough in the positions" and praised Egypt's role in addressing the crisis.

At the Egyptian post Saloon, hundreds of vehicles were lined up waiting to cross into Libya after the trapped Palestinians completely blocked passage from either direction the night before, a border official said.

He said some 200 Palestinians set up tyres and iron barriers on the road leading to the borders late Friday when fighting broke out when Egyptians crossing the border tried to force their way through the blockade. A handful of Egyptians, carrying their luggage, made the five-kilometre journey to Libya on foot, a witness at the border said.

Egyptian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested that the Libyan government had orchestrated the protest to keep attention on the Palestinians' plight. The protest broke up Saturday evening and traffic across the border resumed.

The Palestinians then returned to the camp, where more than 1,000 Palestinian are living in 130 green military tents.

At the border, between 100 and 200 youths lay down across the road after Mr. Musa crossed on his way back to Egypt after midnight. They hoisted a Palestinian flag and claimed the no man's land was Palestinian since neither country would grant them entry. The men blocked hundreds of cars from crossing.

The young men carried no travel documents and said their families were still living in Tripoli. Palestinians on the border have suggested in recent days that Libya had sent young Palestinians to hold demonstrations.

On Friday, Palestinian youths burned tyres at the camp.

Libya, meanwhile, advanced its border 300 metres into the 500-metre no man's land, putting the refugee camp on its side of the border, said Panos Mountzis, a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Cairo.

Egyptian border officials refrained from protesting because they did not want responsibility for the camp, he said.

UAE hopes to settle maid case

(Continued from page 12)

national press.

"This atmosphere will not encourage the family to forgive. Things might get worse, but we will keep trying. It's human nature to forgive eventually," added the official.

The remarks underlined the government's determination to reach a reconciliation formula with the family in accordance with Islamic law, which encourages settling disputes amicably.

"The blood money would be the best face-saving formula for everyone," said an attorney following the case.

UAE officials, worried that the image of their state has been tarnished by the uproar, are anxious to put the case behind them.

Ms. Balabagan will begin appealing for her life in Al

Bosnia truce could be delayed

(Continued from page 1)

power peace plan for Bosnia.

The editorials stressed that peace negotiations would be difficult but political sources said the press comment underlined Mr. Milosevic's commitment to ending the war and lifting the burden of U.N. sanctions from Yugoslavia.

The ceasefire takes effect provided that Serbs have restored Sarajevo's gas and electricity supplies which they control.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said in Warsaw that a pipeline exporting Russian gas to Sarajevo across Bosnia's Serb territory would be reopened on Sunday and that technical delays in restoring electricity would not hold up the ceasefire.

He told reporters that Bosnia-Herzegovina alone needs \$12 billion in aid to rebuild after the war and Serbia should set no aid until it meets stringent conditions.

Last minute fighting for territory in northwest, northern and central Bosnia continued between government and Bosnian Serb forces in the runup to the ceasefire.

Bosnian media said government forces had captured 50 square kilometres of the Mount Iznar area of northern Bosnia and were advancing on the Serb-held town of Doboj.

Capture of Doboj would threaten the Serbs' grip on the corridor they hold across northern Bosnia and imperil the security of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka.

West of Banja Luka, government forces have stemmed Serb offensives attempting to retake the towns of Bosanska Krupa and Kljuc.

They could be based in the northern town of Tuzla, administration officials said on Friday.

NATO officials are giving various estimates ranging from 40,000 to 70,000 of the total number of troops required to monitor the dividing line, making it the largest ground operation ever conducted by the alliance.

U.N. peacekeepers will stay in Bosnia for the moment to oversee implementation of the ceasefire. Spokesman Alexander Ivanko said the U.N. would set up a "management regime" to deal with and contain violations.

With the U.N. mission went thousands of jobs it paid for. So while food is available in Mogadishu's markets, many people can no longer afford to buy it. Malnutrition is rising and some deaths have been reported among the weakest and most vulnerable, children and the elderly.

But Mogadishu is not Somalia, and Somalia — as a society, if not a nation — is functioning, bound together in part by entrepreneurs and traders who

Somalis get on with life while warlords manoeuvre for power

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

NAIROBI — Three men claim to be Somalia's president, and there still is no government. The warlords are warring again. Bandits roam the roads. Hunger has crept back into the shattered capital.

Somalia today is much like the United States and the United Nations found it almost three years ago when they halted a devastating famine, then tried unsuccessfully to stitch it back into a nation.

Pretty much the same, but not quite.

To a surprising degree, Somalia sort of works. Farmers are growing crops. Nomads are tending expanding herds and flocks. The northern ports at Bosaso and Berbera are booming, exporting sheep, goats, camels and cowhide across the Red Sea to the Arabian Peninsula and bringing back consumer goods that find their way into shops and kiosks throughout the elbow-shaped country in startling quantities.

True, the capital, Mogadishu, lies smashed and still divided between the country's principal warlords. Its airport has been closed since March, when the last U.N. peacekeepers left. Its seaport operates only sporadically. Water has stopped running, and the only electricity comes from generators.

With the U.N. mission went thousands of jobs it paid for. So while food is available in Mogadishu's markets, many people can no longer afford to buy it. Malnutrition is rising and some deaths have been reported among the weakest and most vulnerable, children and the elderly.

But Mogadishu is not Somalia, and Somalia — as a society, if not a nation — is functioning, bound together in part by entrepreneurs and traders who

buy and sell freely across clan and ideological lines that otherwise divide the country.

G. M. Mutiso, a Kenyan scholar and consultant who has spent the last six months in Somalia on an internationally financed project to train local administrative councils, sees hope for the future springing up from the grass roots.

"There is an amazing amount of cooperation and trade between various districts," Mr. Mutiso said. "The people are sick and tired of war and the warlords. They realise that the civil strife that led to the famine of 1992 brought them nothing but misery."

That disillusionment has led, in part, to a weakening of the power base of General Mohammed Farah Aided, the warlord who once defied and confounded American military might and now is one of the three pretenders to Somalia's non-existent presidency.

U.N. and aid officials who work in Somalia say that the rise of Osman Atto, once Gen. Aided's biggest financier, is the most obvious sign the balance of power has changed and that a settlement finally could be on the horizon.

In the last few months Mr. Atto has ousted Gen. Aided as chairman of the Somalia National Alliance, cut into the warlord's power base in their mutual Habre-Gedir subclan and opened talks with Aided's chief rival, Ali Mahdi Mohammed, another self-proclaimed president.

Until the dramatic rise of Mr. Atto, Gen. Aided was seen as the man holding the key to any political settlement in Somalia, largely because of his skill as a military organiser and the strength of his militia.

But Mr. Atto is working hard with other faction leaders to marginalise Gen. Aided, the man they see as the biggest obstacle to peace and reconciliation. Mr. Atto's rise has cut deeply into Gen. Aided's support.

"Aided used to have all of south Mogadishu. Now it is divided with Atto," said a senior U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he works in Somalia.

Still, U.N. officials say Gen. Aided cannot be dismissed. He has his own finances and his militia has stockpiled weapons.

"His support is the sub-clan militiamen who are willing to die for his words," said Hassan Hussein, a Somali political consultant who often works with the United Nations.

The military option appears to be among the most attractive of the dwindling choices left to Gen. Aided as he manoeuvres to gain power.

Gen. Aided's militia fought fierce skirmishes with Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces in Mogadishu in late August. In early September, Gen. Aided urged his supporters to eliminate his opponents militarily and politically.

Mr. Atto and Mr. Ali Mahdi condemned his call as an appeal for a return to civil war. But Gen. Aided defied them and, in a sudden strike Sept. 17, sent a force of 600 men to seize Baidoa, a city of 300,000 people about 40 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, against light opposition.

In the process, Gen. Aided's men detained 20 foreign aid workers and an Australian journalist and held them for six days. Diplomats and U.N. officials in neighbouring Kenya saw the detention as an attempt by Gen. Aided to get the attention, if not the recognition, of foreign governments.

Military success could secure power for Gen. Aided, but U.N. officials say a war would be an extremely risky gamble.

"Both Ali Mahdi and Gen. Aided still have reasonable stocks of weapons reserved for a final battle," said Femi Badejo, the senior political officer in the U.N. political office for Somalia.

Mr. Atto also has formed his own militia, buying the loyalty of teenage gunmen for whom there is no other work.

Gen. Aided and Mr. Ali Mahdi went to full-scale war over Mogadishu in November 1991, 10 months after the fall of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre.

The heavy artillery, tank and mortar battles lasted five months, killed up to 30,000 people, mostly women and children, and wrecked about 80 per cent of the seaside city.

The outcome of any renewed war cannot be assured. U.N. officials say it could depend on shifting clan alliances.

Gen. Aided, frustrated in efforts to engineer a political settlement among the myriad of factions that would put him in power, had himself declared president unilaterally by a conference of his allies last June.

His government has not been recognised by any other nation. The snub was obvious when the Organisation of African Unity refused Gen. Aided Somalia's seat at its June summit.

Mr. Ali Mahdi also claims Somalia's presidency, and Ibrahim Egal has proclaimed himself the president of Somaliland, a secessionist state in the northwest also not recognised by any government. Northeast Somalia, including Bosaso, exists pretty much as a separate entity ruled by a council of elders.

Mr. Atto's presidential ambitions are not known. For the moment he is working with Mr. Ali Mahdi and other faction leaders to try to organise a reconciliation conference to forge a settlement without Gen. Aided.

U.N. officials say there is an even chance Mr. Atto and Ali Mahdi can hold such a conference by early next year and form an interim government within a year.

Commission endorses new UNRWA subject

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) last Wednesday considered Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen's draft annual report on the agency's activities and operations for the period July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995, and the agency's proposed

budget for the 1996-1997. Both reports will be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly at its 50th session.

UNRWA sources said that the council, which met in Vienna, endorsed the agency's budget for the new fiscal year amounting to \$666.6 million, of which \$168 million will be allo-

cated for the agency's operations and services in Jordan.

This amount registers an increase of three per cent over the previous fiscal year's allocations, according to the sources which noted that the increase in the new allocation was required to meet the population growth among the re-

fugees and the rising cost of various services.

According to the sources, the allocation included \$12.7 million to be used by UNRWA to pay as end-of-service compensation to its staff members. The sources noted that the lion's share of the new allocation, which amounts to \$99 million, will cover

the educational services for the refugees in Jordan.

The increase in the overall allocation over the previous year, they added, was deemed necessary to cover the increase in salaries to the local staff employed by the agency in its fields of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon Gaza and the West Bank.

Qatar, Pakistan to discuss gas pipeline

DOHA (R) — Qatar's Energy and Industry Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah said on Saturday he will hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart on a proposed pipeline to transport Qatari gas to Pakistan.

"Major issues to be tackled by us during our talks will be on providing Qatari gas to Pakistan through a pipeline," Mr. Attiyah told reporters after Pakistani Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah arrived in Doha.

Sharjah-based Crescent Petroleum, Calgary-based Transcanada Pipelines Ltd and Halliburton subsidiary Brown and Root Inc. have proposed and formed a consortium to build the \$6 billion, 1,600 km pipeline to carry 45 million to 67 million cubic metres a day of north field gas to the Pakistan port city of Karachi.

The Pakistani cabinet has approved the plan and is expected to sign a long-term gas supply agreement with the consortium shortly, according to press reports.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto lent her support to the project when she visited the former emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad

Al Thani, in August 1994. "The Pakistan government — and especially Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto — are keen to see that the project is carried as soon as possible and we are providing all facilities to it," Mr. Saifullah said.

He said Pakistan needed gas to meet growing demand, now at 45 million cubic metres a day. "Our demand will go up to 283 million cubic metres daily within the coming few years. We are negotiating to import gas from Iran and Turkmenistan. But we give top priority to gas from Qatar," he said.

Before the project can go ahead, the consortium needs to sign a formal sales-and-purchase agreement with Qatar.

They must agree on the pricing and route of the pipeline which, according to the plan, traverses undersea and overland through countries with possible security risks.

Crescent Petroleum, which had signed the head of agreement with Qatar General Petroleum Corporation in 1991, has held talks with Qatari officials, but no accord has been reached yet.

Bahrain urges Iraq to accept limited oil sales

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's foreign minister urged Iraq in an interview published on Saturday to accept a U.N. deal for limited oil sales to ease the suffering of its people.

"The people of Iraq are facing social crises. U.N. reports show the situation of economic, population, water, agriculture, health and supplies are all deteriorating," Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa told the London-based Al Hayat daily.

"We strongly urge Iraq to implement all U.N. resolutions especially the one which calls for purchasing of food supplies," added the minister whose country is the current head of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Security Council members, including the United States, have been urging Iraq to take advantage of a resolution adopted in April permitting it to sell up to \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in order to be able to purchase civilian supplies.

Iraq on Friday described as "baseless" recent reports that it might agree to sell limited quantities of oil in order to buy badly needed food and other humanitarian goods.

It rejects any partial oil sales on grounds they would involve intrusive monitoring that would violate its sovereignty.

Iraq has been the target of stringent United Nations sanctions, including a ban on oil sales, since its August 1990 invasion of GCC member Kuwait.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You feel frustrated because of some matter you can do little about in the morning, and later tonight do not need any radical changes.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't go after some wish that you don't know how to go about to gain, and later tonight don't create a problem for yourself.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take care of personal affairs at home today since you may find disappointments in the outside world and later tonight don't be forceful.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You must study that philosophical matter well today if you are to understand it. Don't try to impress others later this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may disagree with the one you love today, but show patience and don't run out elsewhere. Forget a business matter.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A partner may be confused and you could get into a disagreement. Be loyal to your mate in some quarrel which may arise with another.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your environment may not be just what you like today, but don't make any radical changes without careful thought this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Going after pleasure could bring you trouble during the daytime today so get busy at the practical. Steer clear of a demanding fellow associate.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Home conditions may be tense today but control your temper and all ameliorates soon. Try not to be extravagant later this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of whatever could bring about an accident during the daytime today. Improve conditions at your home tonight.

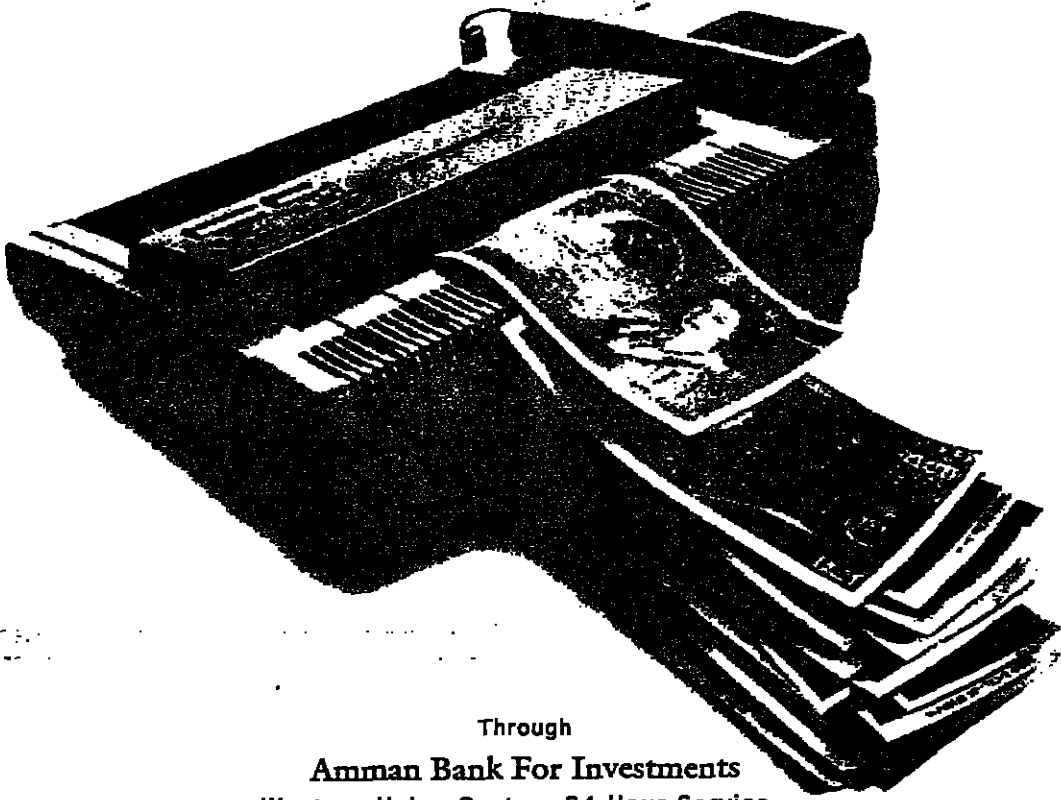
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget those practical affairs that you cannot handle wisely today. Later tonight you may find friends are out of sorts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You find it difficult to gain personal longings today, but don't force anything. Don't ask favours of good friends on how to handle any problems.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

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Bank head: No decision on debt yet

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank will deal with growing debt in the poorest countries, but a relief plan must wait until next year, the bank president says.

"It's too hot. We don't have answers," bank President James Wolfensohn said before the bank's annual meetings next week.

He acknowledged concerns over a proposed debt relief plan by some officials in the bank-affiliated International Monetary Fund.

"Some people in the fund thought it should be changed," he said. Mr. Wolfensohn said bank and fund officials were working on a new proposal and hope to have a plan by the next meetings of the bank and fund in the spring.

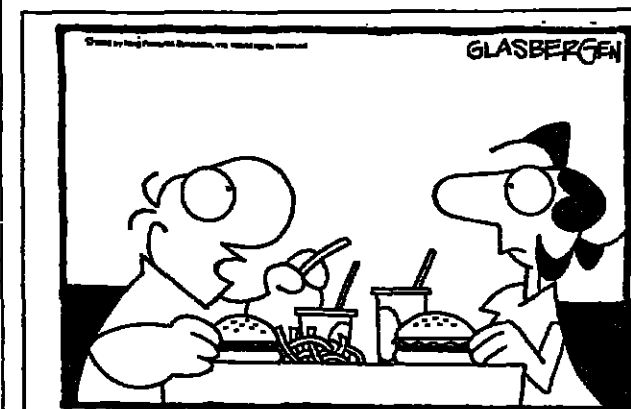
Next week, however, the IMF is expected to approve a \$56 billion emergency bailout plan for countries that suffer sudden financial crises, such as that experienced last year by Mexico. The United States, which has joined 11 other countries in putting up half the credit line, is trying to raise the other half.

Last month, bank officials acknowledged the bank and fund were considering a multibillion-dollar pool to help pay off some of the \$30.5 billion in debt owed by poor countries, mostly in Africa, to international lenders.

The Financial Times of London had reported the plan would provide \$11 billion to pay off Third World debt at the rate of \$400 million a year over five years and smaller amounts afterward.

The plan, although disavowed by the bank, brought immediate praise from groups that have criticised bank lending policies.

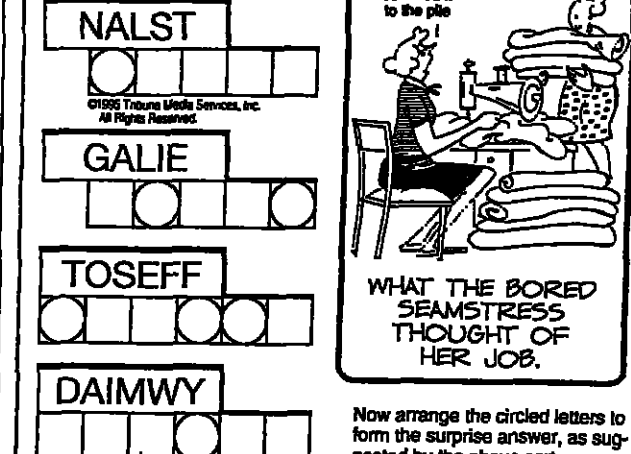
Mr. Wolfensohn, in Monday's speech to a World Resources Institute dinner honouring him, said debt in many countries is so high it is impeding growth



"I hate how my employer treats us all like a bunch of children. But the new swings behind the parking lot are nice."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

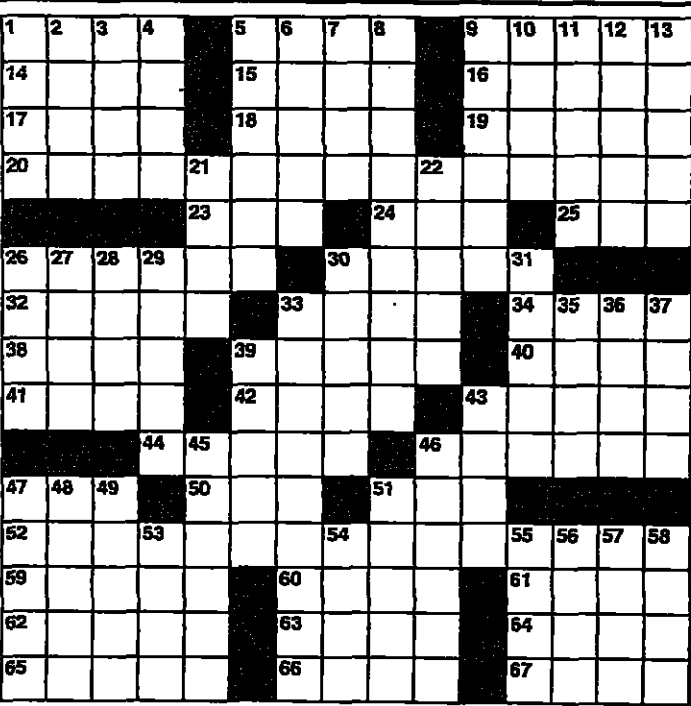
Saturday's Jumbles: IDIOT BURST ELEVEN FALLEN

Answer: What the hosts ended up with after the party — LEFTOVERS

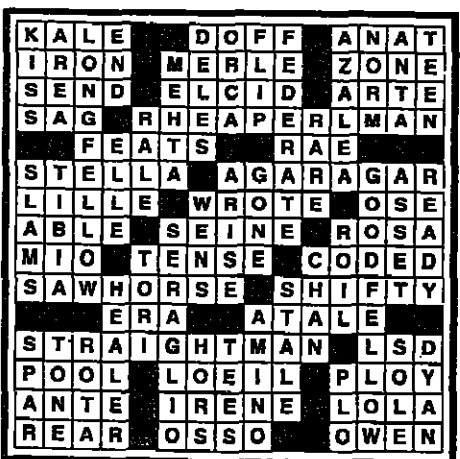
THE Daily Crossword by Fran Regus

ACROSS

- 1 Dry by rubbing
- 5 Annie Oakley
- 9 — clear of (avoid)
- 14 Celebrity
- 15 Pot for stewing
- 16 Lustrous velvet
- 17 Uncouth one
- 18 Legal claim
- 19 Concluded
- 20 Hunt and Peck
- 23 Individual
- 24 Nourished
- 25 — is me!
- 26 Made points
- 30 Salad herb
- 32 Place for a carnation
- 33 Implement
- 34 Sign of saintliness
- 38 Bedouin
- 39 Convey members, maybe
- 40 Vitamin ingredient
- 41 Soccer star, once
- 42 — Three Lives
- 43 Available
- 44 Subsequently
- 46 Ancient interpreter of omens
- 47 — culpa
- 50 Cartography item
- 51 Aardvark tidbit
- 52 Hill and Dale
- 53 Of sixty minutes
- 60 Follow along
- 61 Kind of skirt
- 62 River in Italy
- 63 Residence
- 64 Reykjavik's country: abbr.
- 65 Minimal
- 66 Belgian river
- 67 Narrate



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DOWN

- 1 Desire
- 2 Futile
- 3 Puddle
- 4 German river

- 5 Wales's land
- 6 Frock shape
- 7 Hill slider
- 8 Insouciance
- 9 Velocities
- 10 Piquant flavor
- 11 Bequeath
- 12 January in Avila
- 13 Tint again
- 21 Coward
- 22 Totters
- 26 Dash or stick start
- 27 Anxiety
- 28 Semi-precious stone
- 29 Rise up
- 30 One with promise
- 31 Flinches
- 33 Mind reading
- 35 Not care —
- 36 Abundant store
- 37 Chalcedony
- 39 Ravi's instrument
- 43 Babe

- 45 Charm
- 46 Stag feature
- 47 Taj —
- 48 Wear gradually
- 49 Courtyards
- 51 Stop on —
- 53 Cronos
- 54 Ancient temple
- 55 Ignore
- 56 Old cudgel
- 57 Skating jump
- 58 Window part

Swedish women may get their own bank

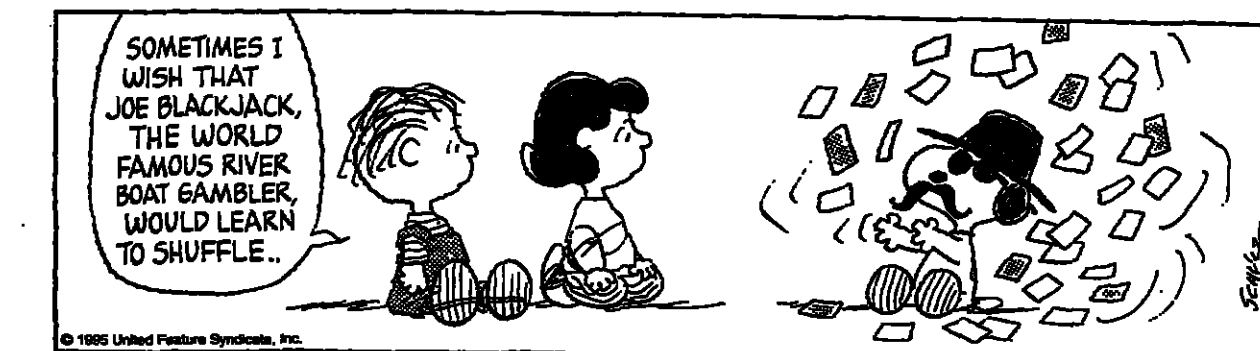
STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swedish women may soon get their own bank that will grant them small loans to start up a business, thanks to four women who are trying to gain support for the idea.

Already a popular and successful business nation in developing

countries, the idea is that small loans can be enough for a woman to start her own successful business.

"This is a feminist bank for women's fairness on the capital market," said Goerel Thurdin, a centrist MP and one of the women behind the project.

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Bahrain
urges Iraq
to accept
limited
oil sales

ANAMA (R) — Bahraini foreign minister urged Iraq to accept a limited oil sale to ease the suffering of its people.

"The people of Iraq are suffering from economic sanctions," he said. "The situation is deteriorating and the health of the Iraqi people is at risk."

"We strongly urge Iraq to accept a limited oil sale to ease the suffering of its people," he said.

Security Council members, including the United States, have been urging Iraq to accept a limited oil sale to ease the suffering of its people.

HOROSCOPE
ORFCAST FOR SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8, 1995

RIES: (March 21 to April 19) You feel frustrated because of some minor problems, but a little about the day, and later tonight, you will feel a great deal better.

AURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will go off to work today, but you don't know how a little about the day, and later tonight, you will feel a great deal better.

EMINE: (May 21 to June 20) Take care of your affairs at home today, but you may find disappointment in the outside world, and later tonight, you will feel a great deal better.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You will go off to work today, but you don't know how a little about the day, and later tonight, you will feel a great deal better.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You will go off to work today, but you don't know how a little about the day, and later tonight, you will feel a great deal better.

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Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Jordan to seek \$133 m financing for transport projects

Jordan will seek financing for seven transport projects worth \$133 million at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will convene in Amman at the end of this month, rapporteur of the transport committee Sufyan Al Muheisin said.

Mr. Muheisin said these projects entail launching a land transport company with a capital of \$38 million in addition to other projects to modernise equipment used to train pilots, equipment at Royal Jordanian's (RJ) Engineering and Maintenance Department and the establishment of a marine transport company which would transport liquid cargo. He said other projects include the establishment of a marine fuel station and a marine maintenance and manufacturing centre.

Mr. Muheisin said the committee followed several criteria in choosing these projects, taking into consideration their regional and international dimensions. (Al Rai / Petra)

The United States and other world countries intend to reduce the capital of the Middle East Development Bank, which will be launched at the MENA summit, from a proposed \$5 billion to \$1.25 billion, according to informed sources. The sources told Al Dustour Arabic daily that the reduction of the bank's capital is due to lack of financial support, especially on the part of European and Arab Gulf countries. The U.S., the main proponent of the establishment of the bank found it better to reduce the proposed capital rather than apportion the whole proposal. (Al Dustour)

The Professional Associations Union will in 1996 start constructing a new building at a total cost of JD 5 million. Tareq Al Tal, the engineer heading the project's supervising committee, said the project will be financed by the pension funds of the six associations using the Professional Associations Complex. These associations are those of engineers, doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, dentists and agricultural engineers. Mr. Tal said parts of the project, including the mosque and the cultural centre, will be financed through donations. He stressed that the swimming pool at the old complex, established in 1958 on a 10-dunum piece of land, was closed because of the need for space for other purposes. He said with the completion of the project, the building area will double to 6,000 square metres and the number of halls will increase from four to eight. (Al Rai)

U.S. happy with dollar; G-7 nations could defend it

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration expressed satisfaction Friday with the recent strength in the dollar but left open the possibility that the world's seven largest industrial countries could launch further surprise rescue efforts should the U.S. currency come under renewed attack.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin listed the dollar's rebound in the past four months as an encouraging development in the global economy along with falling interest rates and new efforts on the part of the Japanese government to combat that country's worst recession in the postwar period.

The U.S. economy, after slowing dramatically in the spring, is rebounding and "we expect healthy growth with low inflation to continue through next year," Mr. Rubin said.

Mr. Rubin commented on the eve of a daylong meeting Saturday with finance ministers and central bank presidents from the Group of Seven countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada.

When the group met last April, the dollar had fallen to record lows against both the Japanese yen and the German mark and attempts at coordinated dollar-buying by the seven governments had been largely brushed aside by markets.

The G-7 officials said the currency movements had

"gone beyond the levels justified by underlying economic conditions" and declared that "an orderly reversal of those movements is desirable."

While the statement at the time was viewed as little more than rhetoric, the G-7 countries during the summer conducted several surprise coordinated intervention efforts that have helped to sharply push up the value of the dollar.

It now stands 26 per cent higher against the Japanese yen than at its low of 79.85 yen hit on April 19.

Mr. Rubin said G-7 ministers would spend a portion of their Saturday discussions on a review of currency developments. While financial markets are not looking for more dollar-buying immediately after the meeting, Mr. Rubin pointedly told reporters that the administration still believed "that a strong dollar is in the economic interests of the United States and we have been and we'll continue to cooperate with our fellow G-7 members to work towards that end."

The meeting of top finance officials from the seven largest economies was being held in advance of the annual meetings starting Sunday of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

At those sessions, the administration hopes to win approval of a package of proposals first unveiled at last June's summit meeting in Halifax to bolster the ability

of the IMF to respond to future Mexican-style financial crises.

The United States wants a \$50 billion emergency bailout fund in the IMF with the money coming from an existing \$28 billion IMF line of credit and new contributions from wealthy countries.

However, some newly wealthy Asian nations that are being asked to contribute object that they would not have as much control over the fund as the original members, which include the G-7 nations.

Mr. Rubin played down reports of discord. "The prospective donors have been satisfied with the responses we've had with respect to those issues... I think we are making very good progress in these informal discussions," he said.

While the IMF's policy-setting interim committee is expected to endorse the goal of creating the new emergency financing mechanism on Sunday, officials concede it will take several more months to work out details of how the fund will operate and

obtain the necessary pledges of support.

The IMF is expected on Sunday to approve efforts to establish a better early-warning system of potential crises such as the one that pushed Mexico to the brink of default after it was forced to devalue its currency last Dec. 20.

This package will include a set of economic statistics that countries will be asked to collect and make public in a timely fashion so investors can better judge a country's financial health.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMEISANI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 07/10/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ANAB BANK PSC	760	186230	247.000	244.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1900	8425	4.450	4.400
BANK OF JORDAN	3987	14057	3.510	3.550
KIDDAE BANK INVESTMENT BANK	20350	26088	1.280	1.290
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	15678	36992	2.360	2.360
JORDAN KUMIT BANK	356	1014	2.780	2.780
JORDAN GULF BANK	101370	122486	1.200	1.200
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1000	3770	3.760	3.750
JORDAN TELAMIC BANK	5530	20377	3.710	3.690
BUSINESS BANK	1250	4368	3.490	2.500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	431	1599	3.710	3.710
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21309	20155	.930	.930
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	750	1170	1.560	1.560
BANKS SECTOR		175494	446788	INDEX NUMBER: 194.31 CHANGE: -0.78%
WIDIAE EAST INSURANCE	125000	437800	3.500	3.500
ARABIAN INSURANCE	500	925	1.850	1.850
ROYAL LAND INSURANCE	250	530	2.120	2.120
INSURANCE SECTOR		125750	438955	INDEX NUMBER: 131.95 CHANGE: -0.17%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6800	11162	1.640	1.590
JORDAN KUMIT MINERAL	50	125	2.500	2.500
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	18850	38713	2.040	2.070
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1050	714	1.670	1.680
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / AL RA'Y	100	970	9.880	9.700
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	10750	33840	3.120	3.160
ZARNA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	3350	4390	1.320	1.310
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	60648	66326	1.080	1.110
SERVICES SECTOR		101598	156238	INDEX NUMBER: 127.41 CHANGE: +0.26%
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2000	2400	1.200	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	2475	8868	3.580	3.580
THE ARAB POTASH	400	1590	4.900	5.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1962	18891	9.500	9.490
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2485	11895	4.800	4.800
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	350	2093	5.980	5.980
RAJLA INDUSTRIES	800	2065	2.510	2.500
DAYAL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1305	9455	7.250	7.250
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	700	3653	5.210	5.220
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	90298	84887	.710	.720
GENERAL INVESTMENT	800	2000	2.500	2.600
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2450	3495	1.430	1.420
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1300	11906	2.250	2.220
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	3100	3348	1.090	1.080
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	355	1.780	1.780
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	6000	9851	1.610	1.600
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1600	2202	1.360	1.360
KAMHIER INVESTMENT	950	1544	1.630	1.620
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2000	6440	3.200	3.220
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JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	6000	9851	1.610	1.600
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1600	2202	1.360	1.36

minated
qualifiers

as eliminated from the
after losing to Qatar's
capital
hes drew with Iraq 0-0
the Asian Group Eight
Iraq with four points
advantage with its
head — with Qatar

p qualifies to the final
by His Royal Highness
the lead in the second
rounding striker Mune
minute added another

d continued their attack
to score their first goal
had Mubarak
set in the 30th minute
were scored by Al-Nasser
Al-Nasser

president of the Jordan
satisfaction of and pride
in spite of its elimination
the team's morale
the national Olympic
enable it to improve
play with better teams
following the match

ye Basler

Meanwhile, there are
pneumonia at struggling
Lamburg where two
look over as club president
Thursday and immediately
acked the coach Ber
Johlmann

This replacement, the
er deputy coach
Fagah, has been told
midfielder Jürgen Hane
e no longer wants to
captain

A new skipper will
be appointed before next
day's match against
Lamburg have no way
match, all season and a
second from bottom of
first division

crashes car

The left suspension
suction. Renault car
suddenly dived
Villeneuve, a Formula
one driver, was
by the blown engine
Williams Renault

The young Canadian
ever, the only champion
cent, will team with
hill at Williams in 1997
Schumi, but has been
his retirement in the
track since Wednesday
preparation for the
championship race

RIDGE

TAKE THE SURF LINE

MENTS FOR RENT
K & B
ahon, Jabal Amman,
Mustata Khalifah St.
51. Fax: 663002

RENT
bedroom Apartment
d. & telephone.
near Birds Garden
em Al Nmr St.
443. Fax 663002



ARAB CHAMPIONSHIP: Al Riyadh Al Saudi player Mohammad Al Kadi (R) and Hassan Jinkel Hassan defender of Al Nassar fight for the ball during their match in the Soccer-Cup Winners of the Arab Cup at Al Manzah Olympic Stadium in Tunis Friday. Al Riyadh Al Saudi from Saudi Arabia beat Al Nassar from United Arab Emirates 2-0 (Reuters photo)

UEFA president issues new attack on Euro court opinion

GENEVA (AP) — UEFA President Lennart Johansson has issued a call to arms against a European court opinion that could spell the end of multi-million dollar player transfers.

He urged the authority's 49 national federations to lobby governments "at the highest level" to "save football from those who have little understanding of the game."

"Eventually the politicians will have to listen, not just to football associations, but also to the people of Europe," Johansson wrote in an editorial of UEFA's monthly bulletin issued Friday.

"Nobody wants the national structure of football to be destroyed. Ask a young Italian player if he dreams of playing in the World Cup for Italy or for the European Union. The answer is obvious," he wrote.

Johansson's comments marked his strongest attack yet on an opinion issued last month by the EU advocate-general that limits on the number of foreign players

and transfer fees violated EU principles of free movement of people and labour.

The full European Court of Justice is expected to follow the Otto Lenz's opinion in its final verdict around Jan. 1.

If implemented, it would change the nature of European soccer.

Lenz's interim judgment came in a case filed by Jean-Marc Bosman, a Belgian player who sued UEFA after he was denied a transfer to FC Liege in 1990.

Many players are disgusted with the transfer system and would welcome a change.

UEFA has warned that small clubs would be the losers because the sale of new talent is an important source of income. But even powerful clubs have criticised the interim ruling.

UEFA currently has a three-plus-two rule, which allows clubs to field three foreigners plus two non-nationals who have been playing in the country for several years.

The transfer system, in

Draw in 16th game puts Kasparov closer to victory

NEW YORK (AP) — Titleholder Garry Kasparov coasted nearer to victory in the Professional Chess Association World Championship when he drew his 16th game with Viswanathan Anand after only 20 moves Friday.

With four games remaining, Kasparov leads 9.5 to 6.5 and requires only one more draw to retain his title.

The winner of the contest must accumulate 10.5 points, but match rules state that in the event of a 10-10 tie Kasparov keeps his title.

"I think Vishy just wants to go home. He's demoralised," said Australian grandmaster Ian Rogers.

Asked by a reporter whether he felt like simply

resigning the contest, Anand replied: "I might be tempted to take you up on it." But he added: "I think I might have one more shot at him."

Playing black, Anand tried Kasparov's favourite Sicilian defence. Both players' moves were exactly the same as in their seventh game, until Kasparov made a new move with his 16th. After quiet maneuvering in the centre of the board, Kasparov offered a draw on his 20th move. Anand quickly accepted.

Play lasted just 75 minutes. "I understand the last two games weren't exactly thrillers, but you can't stipulate for things like this. A draw is a legitimate result in chess,"

Anand said.

Asked what he will do when the match ends, Anand said: "I'll worry about that in a couple of days. I'm not pretending I'm going to win the match, but there are still two games left."

The match could actually last four more games, but if Kasparov draws two or wins one, the contest is over.

A win scores a point and a draw a half-point. The winner of the contest will receive \$1 million, the loser \$500,000.

Kasparov, 32, of Moscow, has held the world title since 1985. Anand, 25, comes from Madras, India.

Anand plays white in the 17th game Monday.

Romanians defend title in clash of titans

World Gymnastics Championships

SABAE, Japan (AP) — Romania's women defended their world gymnastics title Saturday in a battle so fierce that medals were decided by fractions of points, with America taking bronze thanks to Shannon Miller's courage over pain.

American coach Bela Karolyi called the clash "one of the most dramatic I've been through" in his 30-odd years in the sport.

Chinese coach Lu Shanzhen gushed that his team's silver was reward for its best ever performance.

For Romanian star Gina Gogean, winning gold was "just a step" toward next year's Olympics in Atlanta.

Following compulsory exercises earlier in the week, Romania had started optional Saturday with a 0.848-point lead over an injury

dogged U.S. team, followed by Russia and China, off the top by nearly two points.

But China quickly overtook Russia in its first event, the floor exercises, and then leapt into the silver medal spot on its third apparatus, the uneven bars.

Miller, the 1993 and 1994 world champion, had planned to perform on just two of the four apparatus Saturday because of a right foot hurt in training just two days earlier. But when it became clear on the Americans' third event — the floor — that they were in danger of being bumped off the bronze by the Russians, she begged to continue.

Adapting her routine to her sore ankle, Miller danced and

tumbled to a 9.725 as her teammates on the sidelines shouted, "Come on Shannon, do it."

Finally, with the Russians still threatening, America's medal hopes rested on the last apparatus, the vault, and the shoulders of 14-year-old Dominique Moceanu, going last. After Moceanu fluffed her first attempt, Karolyi, the coach, said he was preparing to give his teen-age athlete a speech about how there was no disgrace in finishing fourth.

But then, Moceanu nailed her second vault, scoring 9.612, for a total team score of 384.705, beating Russia by 0.016 point. It was the first time out of the medals for the Soviet Union and its Russian

successor since the Soviet men and women both won gold in 1954.

Romania took gold with 387.865 to China's 386.476.

"It was incredible," Karolyi said later.

America's medal was due to "individual athletes making things happen in incredible situations and sometimes in hopeless situations, and that's exactly what happened tonight," he said.

Coach Steve Nunno, hoarse from cheering the team on, said Miller, 18, "has a huge heart."

"Miracles happen with that kid," he added.

The top 12 teams qualify for Atlanta. They included the Greeks, who huddled together and cried for joy after securing

Higher, bigger, better — how far can gymnastics go?

SABAE, Japan (AP) — The World Gymnastics Championships' motto is "Challenge the Limits." But what are the limits in a sport where athletes already risk life and limb?

China's team at the current championships is arguing against a decision by the sport's governing body that there is too much risk in a move it had planned to introduce to women's competition.

The debate relates to a wider question about the direction of gymnastics, which wants to encourage innovation without putting athletes, many of them teenagers, in danger or turn the sport, loved for its grace and control, into a circus routine.

China's move, which men already perform, would involve swinging around the highest of the uneven bars with one hand before switching

ing to a backward somersault, twisting, and regripping the bar.

Sound dangerous? No, says Chinese coach Lu Shanzhen.

"Gymnastics is about pushing the limits," Lu says. "If you get rid of the risk then gymnastics will get very bland."

But the International Gymnastics Federation apparently fears women could be hurt doing or training for the move. Rather than ban it, however, it gave the move a low point value so gymnasts looking to score a perfect 10 would be less likely to use it.

"We do not want to ban any move because that would stifle creativity," explained Jim Barry, a federation spokesman. "But we do not want to encourage moves that are dangerous."

Gymnastics is constantly

evolving. To stay ahead, many gymnasts train at least 30 hours a week, and constantly search for that extra move, that higher jump, or that extra somersault. Aches, sprains and injuries are par for the course.

"Every time I think we are at the limit, somebody pops up with something new," Barry said in an interview. "How do you stop people inventing?"

But while spectacular stunts appeal to audiences and look good on TV, the sport was devised originally as a way to keep people fit and agile and should still stress grace and "total control of the body," Barry said.

"We are trying to avoid the circus," he added.

Chinese coach Lu likened the debate over the move to a flap in the 1970s when Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut first performed a backward some-

result on the balance beam. The federation considered banning the move as too dangerous. Today, it is common and ranks only as a "B" on the difficulty scale of a to ultra E, the hardest.

Equipment too has evolved, mainly for safety but also to create better moves. The beam once was just a bar of wood that had to be checked for splinters before competition. Today, it is slightly padded and gives a little. The floor and vault are bouncier, the men's rings are slightly sprung. There is even talk of adding a third parallel bar for men, Barry said.

And all the time, younger, more agile gymnasts are rising to claim their seniors' laurels. Many women gymnasts retire before age 20, and men around age 25, as younger competitors learn harder skills increasingly early.

Gymnasts can leave their mark by performing a new move at an Olympics or world championship to have it named after them. For instance, the Comaneci Salt, named after Romania's Nadia Comaneci, remains one of the hardest somersaults on the uneven bars and, while not considered dangerous, ranks as "E."

And occasionally, gymnasts who are considered ahead of their time dominate for a while, like vitaly Scherbo of Belarus. Scherbo, 23, made Olympic history by winning six gold medals at Barcelona in 1992 and then won the all-around world title in 1993. But since then he has slipped a little as the competition has caught up.

"Other gymnasts are coming up," said Belarus coach Vladimir Vatkini. "It's impossible to stay always on the top."

More expected from Shaq in upcoming season

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — He's bigger, stronger and promising to be even better.

Shaquille O'Neal rejoined the Orlando Magic on the eve of training camp for the upcoming American National Basketball Association (NBA) season Thursday, saying he's ready for some "real" work after spending the summer in California filming a movie and enhancing his already imposing physique.

"It's time to get back to our real jobs," he said, flashing his trademark smile. "We've been unemployed long enough."

The fourth-year pro is about 13½ kilograms heavier, and noticeably more muscular than last season when he won his first scoring title and led the Magic to the NBA finals.

He took two weeks off after Houston swept Orlando in the championship round, then headed to Los Angeles where he played a rapping game with an attitude in the Disney-produced movie "Kazaam" that will be released next year.

He spent as many as 12 hours a day on the set of the movie, but still found time to stay in shape and work on his game with help from personal trainer Billy Blanks.

The 2.16-metre, 149.5-kilogramme O'Neal lifted weights for the first time and his almost-daily routine included martial arts, boxing and a short-lived foray into aerobics with American pop

singer Paula Abdul.

"I can do a lot of things," he said, shaking his head. "Aerobics is not one of them. I had to give that up."

O'Neal's determination to report to camp in good condition and raise the level of his game set the tone for an offseason in which fellow NBA all-star Antwan Davis also used a vigorous workout and weight programme to bulk up to 98 kilos after playing most of last season at about 88 kilos.

Once the NBA lockout ended, management tried to ensure it retained all of the key components from last season while also adding first-round draft pick David Vaughn and backup center Jon Koncinski, who replaces the retired Tree Rollins.

The club announced Thursday the signing of Vaughn, the 25th pick in the draft, to a three-year contract worth just over \$1.5 million. Starter Dennis Scott and reserve Brian Shaw also agreed to three-year deals that will keep them with the team.

"I wanted to back and they wanted me back," said Scott, who averaged 12.9 points last season. His deal is worth about \$9 million.

"It's good to have everybody signed before camp," said O'Neal, Scott's best friend. "If we stay together, do the things we did last season and improve on some things, we're going to be fine."

China pro league breeds hooliganism

BEIJING (R) — Under the growing shadow of soccer hooliganism, 1,000 Beijing fans set off on Saturday on an epic voyage trip to Dalian for a Sunday match that had police in that northeastern city laying on heavy extra security.

"Let's get lively" some soccer fanatics cried amid a din of cymbals, bugles and other noisemakers as they formed a convoy of 19 chartered buses at Temple-of-Modern-Farming Stadium.

After a two-hour drive to Tianjin and a short but important stopover in the port city, the 1,000-strong party was to board a sleeper ferry for an 18-hour crossing of Bohai Bay to Dalian, a soccer-crazed port in Liaoning Province.

Their mission: To cheer Beijing's Guo'an to victory against Dalian's Wanda team, still undefeated at home in the second season of China's fledgling Professional Soccer League.

But it is the Tianjin stop that makes the trip interesting.

Scores of supporters of Tianjin's Samsung team planned a dockside ceremony to apologise to Beijing for a near-riot that marred a September 24 Guo'an-Samsung match in their city.

"They are very sincere about this," Guo'an Fan Association leader Wang Wen told Reuters. "They want to apologise and wish us a safe voyage."

Braving for trouble, Dalian has laid on elaborate security, assigning paramilitary

people's armed police, mounted officers and teams of officials to look after the Beijing visitors and sharpening stadium-gate screening for weapons and banned items.

China's top league went professional two years ago, gambling correctly this would raise the quality of play — but also unleashing the unexpected side-effect of hooliganism.

The Tianjin melee was the latest of several incidents to come to light in recent weeks — the worst outbreak of soccer violence since May 19, 1985, when fans rioted after the national team lost an "unloseable" match to lowly Hong Kong.

Some critics blame Beijing fans, saying that wherever Guo'an and its hyperactive supporters go, trouble is not far behind.

"Soccer brings great pleasure to many, but we've already seen the prototype of soccer violence," the Nan-fang weekly of Guangzhou, a soccer-mad city in south China, said in one of the few public reports of the Tianjin incident.

"People are seeing the danger signals of stadium violence."

The newspaper and several witnesses said zealous, profane and often sarcastic cheering by Beijing fans and poor stadium management in Tianjin created ideal conditions for a riot.

The second half opened with a rain of apples, water bottles and other missiles against Tianjin equalised at 1-1.

Fistfights and small fires erupted in the stands after fans of Beijing, which had quickly run the score up to 4-1, enraged Tianjin fans by rooting for their already humiliated side.

One man was beaten unconscious and taken to hospital.

Afterward, more than 10,000 Tianjin fans massed outside the stadium, barring Beijing fans' departure. People's armed police were summoned to bolster a paralysed force of city officers, who managed to form a lane through the mob to the Beijing buses.

Ignoring a police escort, Tianjin fans pelted the convoy with bricks, smashing 27 windows and injuring seven passengers.

More than 100 Tianjin rioters were reported arrested.

On July 30, supporters of the Taishan team in the Shandong province capital Jinan clashed with more than 100 rowdy Beijing fans, forcing police to escort the visitors out of town.

A league official said soccer violence, though worrying, was nowhere near as bad as it has been in Europe and Latin America, but said stadiums had yet to adjust to the far higher levels of spectator energy spawned by the professional league.

"People are getting ever more fanatical about soccer," he said. "But we need to strengthen management of fans from out of town."

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Algerian militants warn of continued bombings in France

CAIRO (R) — A statement in the name of Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has said its fighters carried out bombings in France and vowed that it would press on with the attacks.

"We are continuing today... our holy struggle and military strikes, and this time in the heart of France and its largest cities, to prove that nothing will stand in our way as long as our actions are for the sake of Allah," said the statement.

It was dated Sept. 23, signed by GIA leader Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, and faxed to an international news agency in Cairo on Saturday.

There was no way to confirm the authenticity of the statement.

France has been the target of several bomb attacks which have killed seven people and wounded more than 130 since July.

French officials have blamed the GIA for waging the bombing campaign to press France, the former ruler of Algeria, to halt its support for Algeria's army-backed government.

The last blast wounded 15 people in Paris on Friday, the day Algerian-born Khaled Kelkal, a suspected GIA bomber shot dead by gendarmes in central France last week, was buried outside the French city of Lyon.

The GIA is the most ruthless of the militant groups locked in a nearly four-year-old conflict with the authorities in Algeria.

In Paris, a police spokesman said police intelligence would study the latest claim.

At least two previous

attacks, including Friday's bomb explosion in Paris, have been claimed by a group called the GIA-General Command but French police were treating those claims with caution.

French newspapers said there was a clear link between Friday's bomb and the killing of Kelkal, 24, who became the most wanted man in France after police named him as the prime suspect in the wave of bombings.

The GIA said its statement followed a letter the group had sent to French President Jacques Chirac inviting him to become a Muslim.

"We sent him a letter in secret (on Aug. 19)... but the sly one (Chirac) refused, boasting to the people and acting proud," the statement said. "We are committed to make you uncomfortable even in your sleep and we will end your pleasures and Islam will enter France."

The GIA denied that the letter to Mr. Chirac was an attempt at dialogue with the French government, the statement said.

"The GIA has continued to prove its force since my late brother Gaafar Seifallah threatened you with death at the end of 1993 if you did not leave our country," the GIA statement said, referring to GIA deadline for French to leave Algeria.

It claimed responsibility for "attacks against France" since warned French to leave Algeria in late 1993.

It specifically cited an attack that killed two French consulate employees and three French policemen in the 'Ain Alah suburb of Algiers in August 1994 and

the hijacking of an Air France plane in December 1994.

The group claimed "more than four passengers were killed (in the hijacking) but they have been kept a state secret."

"Be sure that the GIA keeps its promises and its men love death and cling to it like (the French) cling to life. The GIA strikes who it wants when it wants and announces whatever and whenever it wants," it said.

The statement, filled with verses from the Koran, killed as a "commentary" on the August secret message to Mr. Chirac, which was also sent with the title: "Convert to Islam and you will live in peace."

"We await your response to this call (to convert) within three weeks of your receiving it," the group told Mr. Chirac in the August letter.

"Be sure we call you to Islam. But that does not mean we have any affection for you or want your help or fear your military intervention," it said.

"We are giving you a chance before God, so there is no excuse for you on the Day of Judgement. We alert you to your responsibility for everything and upon you is your burden and the burden of all who have suffered under your rule."

"Do not take this matter lightly, for we will hold you accountable for it before God on the Day of Judgement," the group warned.

Shortly afterwards, violence erupted and more than 30,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the violence.

Sharaa 'satisfied' after talks with Christopher and Ross

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said he was "satisfied" with the results of his two-day "intensive" talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross.

He explained that there was agreement to continue "contacts" in the next few weeks on "the best formulation" for the resumption of talks between Syria and Israel, deadlocked since last June.

Speaking in Arabic on Friday to a limited press conference, the Syrian foreign minister said he and the U.S. officials he spoke with shared "a mutual concern to push the peace process (in order) to arrive at results."

Mr. Sharaa met with Mr. Christopher Thursday and the following day he saw Mr. Ross before returning to Damascus. He came here from New York where he had addressed the U.N. General Assembly.

In reply to a question, Mr. Sharaa said he "made clear" to his American counterpart Syria's "adherence to the peace process and full withdrawal (from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights) to the June 4 (1967) lines and from southern Lebanon."

He repeated that Syria agrees to the establishment of "security arrangements that are mutual, reciprocal and equal in accordance with the framework reached last June and announced at the time by Christopher himself."

He also reiterated Syria's "absolute" rejection of early warning ground stations because, he maintained, that "symbolises occupation and the principle of full withdrawal and the framework of understanding reached among the three parties on the principles and objectives of security arrangements."

The principles are believed

to include demilitarised zones and early warning systems among others.

A Syrian-Israeli accord is seen here as a key to a comprehensive regional peace, a point stressed by Edward P. Djerejian, the former assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, who told a conference on Friday that "a major effort" should be exerted in this regard by the Clinton administration.

Mr. Sharaa would not say where the U.S.-Syrian "contacts" would take place, saying these could be in Damascus or Washington. Secretary Christopher plans to go to Amman at the end of this month for the meeting of the Amman economic summit which is expected to announce the establishment of several regional institutions to help in regional economic development as a result of the Middle East peace process. He may go to Syria and Israel after the three-day conference in Jordan.

Talibans are poised to attack Kabul unless Rabbani quits

KANDAHAR (Agencies) — The student-led Taliban militia, in control of the southern half of Afghanistan, is preparing for a massive offensive against the capital Kabul. The base for forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani, witnesses said Saturday.

In Kandahar, the old royal capital and the headquarters of the Taliban movement for a year, the militia's movements have residents saying the attack seems inevitable.

"We gave an ultimatum to attack Kabul, but then postponed it to give time for the people and humanitarian agencies to leave," said Mohammad Hassan, governor of the southern city of Kandahar, where the Taliban has its headquarters.

"We are also waiting maybe for Rabbani to step down," the bearded, black-turbaned cleric told reporters. "Otherwise very soon we will launch an attack on Kabul, but I cannot say when."

The Taliban threatened last month to attack the well-fortified capital unless Mr.

Rabbani and his top military commander Ahmad Shah Masoud surrendered within five days.

Shortly before the deadline expired on Sept. 24, Taliban leaders said they were delaying the offensive to let civilians leave the city. "We don't want to attack the people," one said.

Truck drivers arriving in Kandahar said they had seen many Taliban fighters heading for the frontline at Maidan Shahr, about 30 kilometres southwest of Kabul, with tanks and other military equipment in the last few days.

"I'm sure they are going to attack Kabul," said a driver named Hakimullah.

The Taliban, originally recruited from religious schools attended by Afghan refugees in Pakistan, seized most of western Afghanistan, including the key city of Herat, in a spectacular advance against pro-government forces last month.

In the offensive, they captured planes, helicopters, tanks and other heavy weapons stored at the big

former Soviet airbase of Shindand, 100 kilometres south of Herat.

Kandahar residents said some of the equipment has now been moved to the Kabul front via Kandahar.

The Rabbani government accuses Pakistan of using the Taliban as a "proxy army" and says its forces will defend Kabul.

Islamabad denies backing the Taliban, saying it has no favourites among warring Afghan parties.

The Taliban are now the main opposition force in Afghanistan, wracked by factional fighting since guerrillas toppled a communist regime in April 1992.

The Taliban, who come from the native tribes of southern Afghanistan and 'Afghani' refugee camps in Pakistan, are mostly Pushtun, the principal ethnic group in the country.

Even though they have studiously avoided playing the ethnic card, witnesses have said a steady stream of Pushtun men are heading for Kabul.

Regent attends ATF meeting on Gulf crisis.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday attended part of a meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) under the chairmanship of the forum's secretary general, Ali Umleil.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. Umleil said that the Regent's participation in the meeting and his directives to its members contributed greatly to the discussions which focused on the Gulf crisis and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The meeting is convened in Amman in implementation of a recommendation taken at an ATF meeting held in Doha, Qatar, in April to discuss the consequences of the Gulf crisis on the Arab region.

Delegates from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq attended Saturday's meeting.

Dr. Umleil said that the delegates decided to hold a



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday attends an Arab Thought Forum meeting on the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait (photo by Boghos)

seminar early next year to deal with the political, economic and other consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with focus on the future rather than the past.

Lawmakers' work handicapped by inaccessibility to information — Srouf

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'ad Havel Srouf said Saturday the poor performance of lawmakers was due to their inaccessibility to information, a vital component of the ability of the legislative authority to perform its role properly.

Mr. Srouf, who was addressing a review of the performance of Parliament, said that the legislature's performance was influenced by "economic, social and political transformations that the region is passing through."

Ahead of the new era, he said, participants in the three-day review and all interested people should concentrate on the revision of the Election Law and the role of political parties and their participation in political life.

The House's main role is that of the monitoring and supervising the performance of the executive authority, Mr. Srouf said, adding that deputies were not able to perform this role properly due to social pressures.

According to Mr. Srouf, the most important element to be studied in this field would be the relationship between the legislative and executive powers.

Mr. Srouf's comments, made at the opening of the seminar on "Parliamentary work — realities and prospects," received the acclama-

tion of attending deputies who called for changes to not only the one-person, one-vote Election Law but also the constitution.

"We should be concentrating more on building party institutions that have effective participation inside Parliament so that when a decision is taken it will be a collective one unaffected by personal interests, relationships and whims," said Mr. Srouf.

Independent Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh said that Jordanians expect their deputy to serve them jobs and solving daily problems.

Senator Na'ela Rashdan contended that the current Election Law had consolidated tribalism in the country.

"We should be looking into new election methods and choose the most democratic," she said.

The senator said that democratic principles should be taught at school at an early age and incorporated as a prerequisite at universities and colleges to make Jordanians more acquainted with democracy, rights and duties.

She also raised the issue of withdrawing confidence from ministers and said that it should not require two-thirds of the House's members as is the case today.

"It limits the power of the House," she said. "Securing two-thirds of the votes is very

difficult to be achieved. This article should be amended."

Although some deputies criticised most of Ms. Rashdan's contentions, they completely agreed with her on this point. Deputy Abdul Karim Dughni said that the provision was in contradiction with the Constitution.

Islamist deputies in the House's extraordinary session that ended in mid-September sought to withdraw confidence from Minister of Justice Hisham Tal'at allegedly mishandling the mass resignations of 23 senior judges.

Huber Dobers, representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, told the seminar Germany would be willing to pass on its democratic experience to other countries which choose democracy as their path.

"We hope that we can help in bringing about the birth of a feeling of solidarity, in creating a kind of international democratic spirit which permeates the society in all its expressions and which facilitates and strengthens cooperation between states and peoples," said Dr. Dobers.

In discussions at the seminar, deputies, Islamists in particular, lashed out at what they described the West's double standards. They said that the West cherishes democracy within its borders but deprives others from enjoying it when it touches on

western interests. Islamic Action Front Deputy Bassam Emoush brought up the issue of Muslim girls prevented from entering schools wearing the veil in France.

Another IAF deputy, Abdul Aziz Jaber, also criticised France's position vis-à-vis Algeria and said: "The mother of democracy and human rights backed military rule in Algeria to the detriment of democracy."

Professor Wolfgang Zeh from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation said Germany offered financial help to democratic forces but was always confronted with problems but said France did not officially interfere in Algeria.

The seminar, held at Amra Hotel and organised by Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, will also tackle the relationship between the Upper and Lower Houses, and between the House and the executive authority as well as prospects for better performance of the House.

Director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre Hani Horani said: "It is very important for all our national institutions to review the extent of our progress on the path of democracy and institutional work and to evaluate the performance of these institutions in a critical and objective spirit."

UAE hopes to settle maid case

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will try again to persuade the family of a man killed by Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan to drop their demand for her execution in exchange for blood money, an official said on Saturday.

"We still have hope that the family will forgive," said the official who asked not to be named. "We will make new attempts from time to time."

Ms. Balabagan was condemned to death by an Islamic court in the oasis city of Al 'Ain on Sept. 16 for the premeditated murder of her employer, Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi.

It rejected her claim that she stabbed him 34 times in self-defence after wrestling his knife away during a rape.

UAE officials recently approached Baloushi's family and offered to pay blood money, hoping they would drop their demand for the death sentence.

The family rejected the offer and insisted that Ms. Balabagan should face execution for the killing last year.

The official said the outrage over the case and the family's anger over the "tainted" reputation of their father were reasons behind their refusal to waive the death sentence.

"They are concerned about the reputation of the deceased and their own reputation. They feel that their elderly father has been branded a rapist by the inter-

Hamas leaders discuss deal with Arafat to stop attacks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Hamas activists have brought proposals to their leaders in Sudan on ending attacks on Israelis from Palestinian self-rule areas, but Hamas said Saturday no agreement had been reached.

Four members of the militant Hamas group arrived in Sudan and began discussions Saturday with their hardline military leaders in Khartoum, Sudan's capital. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has sought an agreement with Hamas on ending attacks as a way to remove a major threat to the Israeli-PLO peace agreements.

"There is no agreement whatsoever with Arafat and nobody is authorised so far to reach such an agreement," Munir Saeed, the Hamas representative in Sudan, told the Associated Press.

Palestinian officials in Gaza said Friday that the non-violence pledge was part of a draft agreement between Mr. Arafat and Hamas, the PLO's main opposition in the self-rule areas.

The four Hamas members left for Sudan Friday to seek approval, but it was not clear whether the men would be able to convince their leaders abroad, who have adopted a much harder line than activists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has carried out a series of suicide attacks that have killed dozens of Israelis over the past two years. "Before any agreement

can be reached there should be a dialogue and the other side is procrastinating and delaying," Mr. Saeed said, referring to the PLO.

In the past, Hamas has demanded that Mr. Arafat meet its leaders first to discuss their future relations under autonomy.

Mr. Saeed, who described the team from Gaza as a "mediation committee," said the talks would focus on "setting a sound ground for the dialogue" with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Palestinian sources said the meetings would also review efforts to set up a political party in the Palestinian self-rule areas that would act as the movement's political wing. That party may compete with the PLO in upcoming Palestinian elections.

Abraham Ghosheh, a Jordan-based spokesman for Hamas who is taking part in the talks in Khartoum, also denied that a draft agreement had been reached on ending attacks.

"Hamas stresses resisting the occupation is a strategic goal and it is the basis of our programme," Mr. Ghosheh said Friday.

The Hamas members were expected back in Gaza early next week.

Sudan's Islamic leader Hassan Tourabi has allowed Hamas leaders to operate in Khartoum and has sought unsuccessfully to act as a mediator between the militant group and Mr. Arafat.

Abu Marzouk case

Musa Abu Marzouk, a Palestinian activist awaiting extradition hearings in the United States, is the top official in the Hamas movement, according to court documents.

The 44-year-old Abu Marzouk, a longtime legal U.S. resident, was arrested July 25 upon returning to the United States and accused of involvement in terrorism and violation of U.S. immigration laws.

Mr. Abu Marzouk "is considered to be the number one in the (Hamas) movement" accused of numerous attacks in Israel, according to a statement from Yaacov Amidron of Israeli military intelligence.

Israel has officially requested Mr. Abu Marzouk's extradition, accusing him of involvement in a number of deadly attacks, including a suicide bomb attack last October that killed 22 people in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Amidron's statement said Mr. Abu Marzouk collected some \$500,000 for Hamas since going to Gaza to help reorganise the group.

Mr. Abu Marzouk's lawyer, Stanley Cohen, said the documents fail to link his client to the deadly attacks, calling the statements "interesting but sad reading."

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been the main perpetrators of anti-Israeli attacks since the launching of Palestinian autonomy in May 1994.

COLUMN

Queen Elizabeth bruised by

downed grouse

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth was bruised during a grouse shoot in Scotland two weeks ago, Buckingham Palace said. "A shot bird spiralled from the sky on a misty morning and brushed off the queen's shoulder," a palace spokesman said, speaking with customary anonymity. The bruising was not serious. "A famous grouse perhaps it may become, but not one that will alter the course of history," the spokesman said. The queen and her guests were walking with the shooting party at Balmoral, her Scottish estate, where she vacations each summer. She is due home Monday. The palace came out with the statement after Friday's edition of the Sun tabloid newspaper hit the streets with a frontpage story about what it called the "kamikaze" red grouse. The Sun said the queen, 69, shrieked when she was hit by the bird, but she soon laughed off the incident.

Driving in Britain today? Best be polite

LONDON (R) — British drivers were being urged, Friday to be nice to one another. Surveys have shown that Britons, who normally value manners to the extreme in person, lose their veneer of gentility when they get behind the wheel of a car. So the Royal Automobile Club and the Police Society have banded together to sponsor a National Day of Courtesy. Discourteous driving, they said, made other drivers develop "road rage" and could cause accidents.

Woman caned for adultery; boyfriend freed

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A young woman was flogged in public after radical Islamic clerics accused her of adultery, but the woman's boyfriend who got her pregnant was let off, news reports said Friday. No one was arrested for beating Golapi Begum 101 times with a bamboo cane last week in front of an audience of about 1,000 villagers that included her boyfriend. Ms. Begum, 23, said she consented to having sex with Mohammad Taibullah after he promised to marry her. Mr. Taibullah was acquitted for want of a witness. Women's rights groups say at least 50 women have committed suicide in recent years unable to bear the humiliation of punishment by the kangaroo courts. The latest flogging occurred on Sept. 30 at Jaikulpur village in Comilla district, 88 kilometres east of the capital, Dhaka, according to the Janakantha newspaper.

Hitler look-alike stabs when taunted

LONDON (AP) — A man who stabbed a pub owner after being taunted for resembling Adolf Hitler was sentenced to three years in prison. "They called me Adolf because I look like Adolf Hitler," John Edney, 53, had told police after the incident at a pub in Victoria, central London. "Someone shouted 'siege hell' and that made me angry," Mr. Edney had explained after thrusting a short red-handled blade at publican Michael Lorrman, who was slightly cut on the chin. Mr. Edney, who wears a small moustache similar to the Nazi dictator's, is lonely and suffers from a "siege mentality" and a belief that "the world was against him," according to his lawyer, Nicholas Bleaney.